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LD221400 [Editorial Report]

Israel

Territories—The IDF has brought down violence in the Gaza Strip "almost to nil," and the aim now is to gradually restore "the tranquil way of life," Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin stated in remarks broadcast by Jerusalem radio during a tour of the Gaza Strip. Gaza was quiet throughout 21 January, the radio said, and the IDF permitted thousands of laborers to leave for work in Israel. Curfews were completely lifted from four of the eight Gaza refugee camps 22 January, the radio announced.

Regarding the IDF's new policy of beating demonstrators, the radio cited a senior IDF officer's view that it is proving "effective." The new policy does not mean that soldiers can beat people at will, he explained, but they are being allowed to use force because previous tactics did not work well enough. "We want the people to be afraid of the army" and "to remember this so they won't run wild," he stated. In another development, IDF radio noted that a fifth resident of "Judaea and Samaria" will shortly be deported.

Attack From Lebanon—Several Katyusha rockets landed in the Galilee 22 January but caused no casualties, Jerusalem radio reported. In Lebanon, a Fatah source cited by the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon threatened further "suicide operations" inside Israel within the next few days.

Soviet Proposal—Foreign Ministry officials said they were "not surprised" by the Soviet foreign minister's call for consultations in the UN Security Council on an international conference, but they "professed a distinct lack of enthusiasm" for the Soviet initiative, according to THE JERUSALEM POST. Sources in Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's office expressed doubts whether Israel should participate in a Security Council debate on the international conference, the POST added, and they accused the USSR of playing a "sophisticated game" to outflank the United States and isolate it within the Security Council.

Eduard Shevardnadze's letter to the UN secretary general, as carried by TASS, called on the Security Council to immediately "join in practical activities to establish and start up a mechanism for an international conference on the Middle East." The Soviet official urged Security Council members to begin consultations on this issue and to follow this up with an official Security Council meeting at the level of foreign ministers. TASS also reported a statement by Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman Gennadiy Gerasimov criticizing Israel for its "illegitimate" actions against Palestinians and Lebanese, as well as the United States for its alleged encouragement of Israeli "hawks."

Lebanon

Reporting on the situation in the Shatila and Burj al-Barajinah refugee camps, AFP said that Fatah has instructed its military personnel to remain inside the camp pending a political agreement between PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat and Syria. The agency cited a Fatah official who stated that the Syrian troops deployed outside the camps have lists of Palestinians wanted by Syrian intelligence services. Nevertheless, a Palestinian source acknowledged that a number of men have left the camps and returned to them without incident, according to Beirut radio. Diplomatic sources cited by Voice of Lebanon radio attributed the lifting of the Amal Movement siege and the deployment of Syrian troops to "Soviet pressure," reflecting the USSR's "extreme concern" over the Palestinian issue and its desire to reduce tension among concerned parties prior to an international conference.

Gulf War

Iraqi Air Force jets attacked a large maritime target off the Iranian coast 22 January, an Iraqi military spokesman announced in a statement broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio.

Meanwhile, Iranian gunboats attacked "by mistake" a Norwegian tanker headed for Iran 22 January, Radio Monte Carlo reported. Abu Dhabi radio cited reports of a second Iranian attack, this time on a Panamanian tanker, in the southern Gulf the same day. No casualties were reported in either attack. Tehran radio cited news agency reports of the two vessels coming under "gunboat" attacks.

Earlier, an Iraqi military spokesman told INA that Iraqi naval helicopters sunk three Iranian gunboats that were approaching the Al-'Amiq loading platform 21 January.

Iraq

Relations With Syria—Reacting to recent reports of Syrian mediation efforts in the Gulf war, Information Minister Latif Nusayyif Jasim stated that "nobody has authorized" such actions, adding that "none of the Arabs trust" Syria's motives in such a venture, INA reported. The minister declared that Iraq "neither wants nor seeks" relations with any party that does not respect the principle of pan-Arab action. The first requirement of establishing relations, he pointed out, would be for the Syrian regime to "prove its adherence" to the letter and spirit of the Amman Summit resolutions.

Reaction to Al-Hakim Killing—The Iraqi ambassador in Sudan asserted that the killers of Iraqi Shi'ite leader Mahdi al-Hakim aimed to "undermine" Iraqi-Sudanese relations, which lately witnessed "increasing progress," SUNA reported. The ambassador expressed hope that investigations will uncover the "real criminals."

Inter-Arab Affairs

Tunis-Cairo Ties Cancel Al-Qadhdhafi Visit

PM211101 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 22 Jan 88 p 13

[Unattributed report: "Why Did Al-Qadhdhafi Cancel His Visit to Tunisia?]

[Text] Once again the Camp David agreements are proving to be the problem of the decade in the web of Arab relations. Talk about Tunisia's readiness to resume diplomatic relations with Egypt has recently led to the torpedoing of Colonel al-Qadhdhafi's scheduled visit to Tunisia at the end of last week.

Arab diplomatic sources in London have said that Tripoli was taken unawares by the Tunisian prime minister's statements during his official visit to Paris, in which he stated: "Relations with Cairo will be resumed shortly." Tunisian Foreign Minister Mahmoud Mestiri, when asked about relations with Egypt after the Amman summit, said: "The priority now is for our local relations with our neighbors," avoiding the embarrassment of saying that Tunisia was going to review this matter in the near future.

Tunisian circles have been saying that a visit by high-ranking U.S. military men to Tunisia at a time when the decision was made to welcome Col al-Qadhdhafi has stirred up the rancor of the Jamahiriyah, which is suffering from an economic and diplomatic siege imposed on it by the U.S. Administration following the aggressive attack on Tripoli and Banghazi. And observers have been perplexed by more than one signal from Washington indicating that President Reagan's administration no longer sees the present regime in the Jamahiriyah as a real source of danger to it.

Tunisia has replied to the rumors circulating as a result of the postponement of Al-Qadhdhafi's visit as follows: "Tunisia does not establish relations with any Arab or foreign state for the purpose of personal benefit, and the fraternity and cooperation charter agreement provides for respect for the sovereignty of each country that is a party to this agreement." While Iran is establishing diplomatic relations with the Jamahiriyah, Tunisia's diplomatic relations with Tehran have been severed since last spring.

U.S. Expected To Propose 'Limited' Conference

PM201655 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 15 Jan 88 p 1

[Unattributed Report: "U.S. Plan For Settlement To Be Presented To Mubarak"]

[Text] Cairo, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT Bureau—AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned from well-informed diplomatic sources that during his upcoming visit to Washington, the U.S. Administration will present Egyptian President Husni Mubarak with a new U.S. plan concerning an agreement on principles to give impetus to the peace process in the Middle East.

The sources said that U.S. State Department officials have prepared the plan in light of the contacts the U.S. Administration has made with Egypt, Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, and Israel during the last quarter of 1987 and also in light of contacts made with the Soviet Union and the six-point document prepared by Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, which was conveyed to the Jordanian monarch via Britain.

The sources confirmed that the U.S. plan includes the convening of a regional conference for the parties concerned with the conflict in the Middle East—namely Syria, Lebanon, Egypt, Israel, and a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation—under the auspices of the United States and the Soviet Union, in order to agree on principles for a settlement and prepare for an international conference if the limited international conference succeeds.

Meanwhile, diplomatic reports from Cairo indicate that President Mubarak's talks in Washington will focus on the need for intensified U.S. moves to end the Gulf war and the importance of the continuation of a naval presence in the Gulf until an Iranian-Iraqi agreement in principle is signed to settle the conflict between them. This is to prove Washington's credibility in protecting navigation and oil tankers in the Gulf.

Mubarak will also discuss the U.S. decision to close the PLO Information Office in Washington and its impact on the credibility of the U.S. role in activating the peace process toward a solution of the Middle East problem.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Cables Mitterrand on Palestinian Rights

LD212212 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 21 Jan 88

[Text] Brother leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] has sent a message to French President Mitterrand. According to a Palestinian source in Paris, brother leader Abu 'Ammar called on those awarded the Nobel Peace Prize, who are currently meeting under the patronage of the French president in Paris, to work to protect the Palestinian people in the occupied territories through the United Nations and to recognize the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination.

PLO's Qaddumi Speaks on West Bank 'Uprising'

LD211454 Kuwait KUNA in English 1400 GMT 21 Jan 88

[Text] London, Jan 21 (KUNA)—The head of the PLO Political Department, Faruq Qaddumi [Abu al-Lutf], has called for the setting up of an UN emergency force to be responsible for administration of the Palestinian territories after a complete Israeli withdrawal from there.

Addressing a London press conference Thursday he pointed out that after such a move were achieved, "Then we can go ahead and prepare for the proposed international peace conference."

He emphasised that the continued Palestinian resistance and uprising against the Israeli occupation would escalate. He branded the Israeli rule as "terrorism" making it clear that the Palestinian question would remain the crux of the problem in the region.

Turning to the Palestinian guerrilla operation yesterday inside Israel from southern Lebanon, Abu al-Lutf underscored that attacks against Tel Aviv from Lebanon would continue "in order to drive them out."

The Palestinians and the Lebanese have the right to fight occupation "and all people should have the right to use all means to regain their homelands."

He again described the massive Palestinian protest in the West Bank and Gaza as "a new stage of our struggles" which will have an impact on the Middle East, Israeli society and the world at large.

Israel has become similar to South Africa in discriminating against the Palestinians ahd harshly treating them in a manner which violates human rights.

Qaddumi predicted that the split inside Israeli society would widen and there would be further conflict.

The senior PLO official insisted that the Palestinians have the right to resist occupation through "armed struggle, strikes, diplomacy or political means."

He called on Western Europe to launch an initiative through the UN Security Council to end the Israeli occupation of the Arab territories and the setting up of an independent Palestinian state.

Referring again to the idea of the international conference, Abu al-Lutf indicated that the PLO should be represented on an equal footing, together with the five permanent members of the Security Council and other parties concerned. However, he said that the Palestinian Organization would not object to participating in the gathering within the framework of an Arab delegation.

Qaddumi suggested that the PLO was doing its best "to mend fences with Syria as this would pave the way" for a collective Arab stand according to the Fes summit plan.

He blasted U.S. policy on the Middle East and its reluctance to support the idea of the international conference. In addition, the head of the PLO Political Department bitterly criticised the Reagan administration's blind backing of Israel in defiance of international law. Meanwhile, he blamed both Washington and Tel Aviv for the deadlock in efforts to set up the international conference.

During the press conference Qaddumi praised the courageous defence of Palestinian rights taken by Britain's Foreign Office Minister David Mellor when he visited the occupied territories. "Mellor was telling the truth but this did not please the British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher," Abu al-Lutf said.

In response to a query on the Palestinian government in exile, he restated that the idea had been referred to the Legal Committee of the Palestine National Council for further study. But Qaddumi did not seem enthusiastic that any such proposal would be impiemented in the near future. "We should focus now on the implications of the Palestinian uprising," he concluded.

Israel Accused of Waging 'War of Starvation'

JN211941 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 21 Jan 88

[Text] Brother Bassam Abu Sharif, Brother Abu 'Ammar's [Yasir 'Arafat] adviser for press affairs, has accused the Israeli occupation authorities of issuing orders to the officers and soldiers to confiscate the foodstuffs that were sent to the camps in a UNRWA car.

He said the occupation forces have confiscated the basic foodstuffs that the UNRWA had sent to the children and the citizens. He added that these forces also confiscated eight truckloads of foodstuffs sent by Arab citizens on the Golan Heights to the Gaza refugee camps.

Brother Bassam Abu sharif asserted that this is new evidence of the Israeli Government's decision to impose a war of starvation on the citizens to force them to halt their uprising.

He added: However, we would like to emphasize that our people's revolution and their blessed uprising will continue, irrespective of the Zionists' racist methods of oppression. We also emphasize that this uprising will not stop until the occupation is definitely removed from our sacred land.

Palestinian Arab National Forces Statement

JN211801 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1625 GMT 21 Jan 88

[Statement issued by the Palestinian Arab National Forces; date and place not given]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Go forth, light and heavy. Struggle in God's way with your possessions and yourselves. [Koranic verses]

O masses of our great people: With your arms, stones, and sacrifices you are forging epics that frighten the occupation forces and confuse the various institutions and parties of the Zionist entity.

The uprising you kindled against the Zionists is a new torch in the history of our Palestinian Arab struggle. Our people did not hesitate to sacrifice their lives to achieve their aspiration of returning to the homeland and establishing a Palestinian state on all the Palestinian soil. Let our country be hell to the occupation forces. Do not give them respite. Do not allow them to walk our streets in peace and tranquility. Disarm them. Fill their hearts with terror. This land knows you as loyal men, just as your stones know their way to the usurpers.

True, we shall pay a heavy price and more martyrs will fall. However, freedom always deserves a high price. Throughout our history we have given many martyrs for the cause of freedom. We as a people never hesitated to sacrifice ourselves for the homeland. Almighty God has promised either victory or marytrdom for His cause. The prophet has said: No creature who has made an effort for the sake of God will be touched by hellfire.

O masses of our people, it is necessary for our businessmen now to stop importing non-basic Zionist-made goods which we can produce ourselves, such as some foodstuffs and light industry goods. It is necessary for owners of farms and industries to employ our workers as a way out of working in Zionist farms and factories. It is necessary to encourage local committees. We must count the water wells. We must implement a new economic policy that can stand fast in the face of the occupation authorities and foil their plans.

We are aware that political struggle on the various domestic, Arab, and international levels is important and necessary. However, such struggle will be in vain unless we are able to continue to confront the Zionist enemy and challenge his presence in Palestine. He is an enemy who understands one language only, the language of force.

The banner of our struggle will continue to fly on our land until the Palestinian people return to their homeland and crown their victory with the establishment of an independent Palestinian state on all Palestinian national soil. We will not be able to win over world public opinion except by the sacrifices we make.

O masses of our people, in confronting your continuing heroic uprising the enemy has resorted to imposing exorbitant fines as a policy of tightening the grip of iron over the land and the people. Even though it may appear to be an administrative punishment, such a measures entails a great threat to the maintenance of the Palestinian spirit rebelling against the Zionists and their repression. It aims to deter the uprising and curb its escalation. Moreover, such fines will pour into the enemy's treasury. The enemy will not desist from continuing his arrests of our rebelling people whether such fines are paid or not.

Blessed is the fire of the continuing popular uprising. Blessed are the hands that carry wounds and stones. Blessed are the eyes that guard the homeland from behind the bars of prison cells and detention camps. Let our great revolution continue until all the Palestinian national soil is liberated.

Signed: The Palestinian Arab National Forces [Al-Quwa al-Wataniyah al-'Arabiyah al-Filastiniyah]

Al Quds. The Palestinian Arab radio on the path of liberating the land and man.

'Revolutionaries' Inflict 'Heavy Losses'

JN212052 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1824 GMT 21 Jan 88

["Text" of military communique issued by the military spokesman for the Palestinian Revolution Forces General Command; date and place not given]

[Text] Pursuant to instructions issued by the commander in chief of the Palestinian Revolution Forces with regard to the escalation of armed struggle inside the occupied homeland, our heroic revolutionaries managed to negotiate the Zionist mine fields, wire fences, and alarm equipment.

Eight hundred meters to the south of Qiryat Shemona, between Al-Khalisah and Al-Manarah, the Zionist enemy's patrols pursued them. At 0100 yesterday, our revolutionaries clashed with the enemy patrols using various weapons. This prompted the enemy to send new reinforcements and helicopters to the battlefield. Furthermore, warplanes illuminated the area.

At 0300 in the morning, the battle erupted once again and continued until 0500. During the battle our revolutionaries inflicted heavy losses on the enemy ranks. The enemy helicopters were seen evacuating casualties. Our heroic revolutionaries are the following: Lieutenant Hisham As'ad, 24-years old; Muhsin Kamil, 22-years old; and Hasan Muhammad, 23-years old. Revolution until victory.

Algeria

Turkish President Arrives, Talks Begin

LD172243 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1800 GMT 17 Jan 88

[Text] President Chadli Bendjedid and President Kenan Evren of Turkey chaired the first round of Algerian-Turkish talks at the Jinan al-Mithaq villa this afternoon. The meeting was attended by the ministers of foreign affairs of the two countries, and the cochairmen of the Algerian-Turkish Joint Commission, the Turkish minister of state, and the Algerian minister of light industry. The Turkish president arrived this afternoon on his first official visit to Algeria.

On his arrival at Houari Boumedienne airport, President Evren stated that Turkey knows Algeria not only as a country with which it is linked through a common history, but also as a country which waged a heroic struggle for independence. This is why the Turkish people hold deep feelings of respect and esteem for the Algerian people.

It is certain, President Evren said, that this visit will provide me with an opportunity to have fruitful exchanges of views with Chadli Bendjedid on our bilateral relations, as well as on regional and international issues of mutual interest. I take this opportunity, President Evren added, to cordially greet the friendly and fraternal Algerian people.

Delegation Members Noted

TA180654 Ankara Domestic Service in Turkish 2100 GMT 17 Jan 88

[Text] President Kenan Evren, who is continuing his contacts in Algeria, held a bilateral meeting with Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid. He then attended a dinner given in his honor by the Algerian president. According to our correspondent Gulent Gullapoglu, State Minister Kazim Oksay, Foreign Minister Mesut Yilmaz, some Algerian ministers, the other members of the Turkish delegation, and high-ranking officers also attended the dinner.

Meanwhile, Oksay held a meeting this evening with Algerian Light Industry Minister Zitouni Messaoudi, cochairman of the joint Turkish-Algerian economic committee. The two ministers discussed the agenda of the joint economic committee meeting to be held in Algeria at a later date. Messaoudi said that the possible sale of natural gas to Turkey was specifically discussed during the meeting. In turn, Oksay noted that Turkey is in favor of comprehensive cooperation with Algeria, that investments are possible through joint firms, and that Turkey is interested in the restoration and the contracting of work in Algeria. The official Turkish-Algerian talks will begin tomorrow.

Presidents Discuss Relations

TA181932 Ankara Domestic Service in Turkish 1700 GMT 18 Jan 88

[Text] Turkish-Algerian official talks were held between the Turkish and Algerian delegations, headed by President Kenan Evren and President Chadli Bendjedid respectively. It has been stated that both sides have full political willpower to develop bilateral relations and that the problems existing between the two countries on various issues stem from a lack of contact.

Evren visited the Algerian Martyrs Monument this morning. He placed a wreath at the monument and paid his respects by observing a moment of silence. He also visited the museum in which various Ottoman weapons, military equipment from the Algerian war of liberation, and documents regarding the war of independence are exhibited. Signing the special book at the monument, Evren wrote that he remembers with respect those who were martyred during the war of liberation.

The official talks were held between the Turkish and Algerian delegations headed by Evren and Bendjedid. The two presidents held a 3-hour meeting prior to the official talks. Evren presented Bendjedid with two historic documents from the Ottoman archives concerning Algeria. One of the documents, dated 1519, expresses the loyalty of the Algerian people to Sultan Selim and requests that Barbaros Hayrettin Pasha [Barbarossa] be left in Algeria. The second document, dated 1827, the year France declared war on Algeria, which was presented by the Ottoman grand vizier to the sultan, praises the Algerian people and proposes joint solidarity and struggle against France. During the meeting, Evren expressed his views regarding the oppression of Turks in Cyprus and Bulgaria. In turn, Bendjedid briefed Evren on the Maghreb Union and the Western Sahara problem. The two presidents also exchanged views on regional and international problems. Evren then invited Bendjedid to visit Turkey.

Meanwhile, the Turkish and Algerian delegations met to discuss various economic issues, as well as regional and international problems. The Turkish delegation was composed of Kazim Oksay, minister of state; Mesut Yilmaz, foreign minister; Ambassador Nuzhet Kandemir, Foreign Ministry under secretary; Yavuz Canevi, treasury and foreign trade under secretary; Ertan Yurek, Transportation Ministry under secretary; and other technical officials. The Algerian delegation was composed of the ministers of foreign affairs, energy, light industry and other officials. At the talks, which were held in a most friendly atmosphere, the delegations agreed that the 20-year loss in developing bilateral relations can be compensated for by forgetting the past and looking forward to the future. Both delegations agreed that the closed doors between the two countries were slightly opened through the visits exchanged between the heads of state, and that Evren's current visit will fully open them.

It has been stated that the Algerian minister of culture and tourism will visit Turkey in the near future and that a cultural exchange program will be signed during his visit. It has also been stated that the Algerian minister of foreign affairs will accept the invitation extended to him and will visit Turkey for the first time.

The diversification of bilateral trade and Turkey's purchase of natural gas from Algeria were among the issues discussed in detail at the talks. It was stated, however, that it will take some time before this project is realized, due to transportation problems and Turkey's proposal to pay for the natural gas with goods. A decision in principle was also reached on setting up corporations that will make joint investments in third countries. The Algerian side stated that inaugurating Algerian Airlines flights to Istanbul was a political decision, and that the Turkish Airlines flights to Algeria, to begin in the last week of March, are an indication of the will to develop bilateral relations. The two delegations stressed that the political rapprochement between the two countries is not sufficient and that it stems from a lack of contact. The sides also confirmed that they share similar views on the Middle East question and on the Iran-Iraq war and how to end it.

After the talks Evren left the capital for Ghardaia—some 1000 km south of Algiers—on a 24-hour visit. He will visit the town Ghardaia and the natural gas installations in Hassi R'mel and return to the capital tomorrow afternoon.

Activities Reported

LD182328 Algiers Domestic Service in French 2200 GMT 18 Jan 88

[Excerpts] The president of the Republic of Turkey, Kenan Evren, who is on an official visit to Algeria, has been in the village of Ghardaia since this afternoon. Tomorrow the Turkish presidential delegation will visit the Sonatrach [national hydrocarbons company] base at Hassi R'mel.

This morning in Algiers President Chadli Bendjedid and President Kenan Evren had private talks that lasted over 2 hours, during which several subjects were discussed. The two heads of state brought up the ways and means of strengthening bilateral cooperation, particularly in trade, and the need to ensure balanced trade between the two countries.

Among regional and international questions discussed by Presidents Chadli Bendjedid and Kenan Evran were the construction of the great Arab Maghreb, the Gulf conflict, and the agreement on Euromissiles. On the subject of the Middle East, they stressed the need to find a just and lasting solution in the region, in particular with regard to the right of the Palestinian people to set up an independent state on its territory.

The two presidents also expressed solidarity with the heroic action of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories and condemned the Zionist practices in Lebanon.

The national news agency, APS, says that a complete similarity of views emerged from the talks on the many questions discussed. [passage omitted]

The talks were then extended to the delegations of the two countries. They discussed bilateral cooperation during which the Turkish side particularly manifested its desire to use Algerian gas. This subject will be dealt with in detail during the forthcoming meeting of the Algerian-Turkish Joint Commission.

President Kenan Evren also invited President Chadli Bendjedid to visit Turkey, an invitation which was accepted.

Evren Holds News Conference

TA192043 Ankara Domestic Service in Turkish 1700 GMT 19 Jan 88

[Text] Pointing out that Turkey wanted the Mediterranean Sea to be a sea of peace, President Kenan Evren expressed his belief that problems with Greece in the Aegean can be solved through negotiations, in accordance with the principles of justice and within the framework of mutual interests.

Evren is continuing his official contacts in Algeria. After returning from Ghardaia, where he stayed overnight, he held a news conference at the [name indistinct] residence for state guests in Algiers. He first made a statement and then replied to questions by journalists.

He noted that differences existing between the two countries on certain subjects were not very essential and that these differences, which emanated from the different geopolitical locations of the two countries, should not constitute an obstacle to the promotion of bilateral ties. He added that his talks with Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid proved this fact, and he expressed his pleasure over the fact that there were great similarities between Turkey and Algeria on various international issues.

He affirmed: I hope to continue the constructive talks we had in Algeria with my dear brother Bendjedid during his visit to Turkey, to be realized in the very near future.

Responding to a question, he said that Turkey wanted the Mediterranean Sea to be transformed into a sea of peace by coastal countries agreeing to solve their problems through the principle of peaceful negotiations. He added that Turkey's problems with Greece in the Aegean can be solved through negotiations in accordance with the principle of justice and within the framework of mutual interests and rights. He noted that progress to be

achieved in fields like economy, trade, and tourism, where no problems exist, can contribute to the solution of existing differences between the two countries.

Pointing out that Turkey considers the INF agreement signed by Reagan and Gorbachev at the Washington summit to be a historic step, he said: We believe that this step should be followed by others, like the limitation of strategic nuclear weapons, the complete elimination of chemical weapons, and an agreement on conventional arms that will provide a military balance and stability in Europe.

He added that for the creation of an atmosphere of complete trust between East and West the process of disarmament was not enough. New initiatives are necessary in the fields of human relations, human rights, and the rights of minorities.

In reply to another question, he said that Turkey has always strongly supported a lasting solution to the Middle East problem, the recognition of the Palestinians' legal rights, and the withdrawal of Israel from the territories it has occupied. He added that Turkey also believed an international conference on the subject will contribute to the solution of the problem.

He reiterated that Turkey is interested in an end to the war which is causing great moral and material damage to its neighbors Iran and Iraq, adding that Turkey supports the efforts being made by the UN secretary general to this end.

He said that Turkey's joining the EEC as full member will benefit the Community as well as the friendly Islamic Arab countries.

In reply to a question on what measures Turkey contemplated for the further consolidation of democracy, he first explained the reasons that brought about the 12 September operation in Turkey. He added that Turkey has successfully implemented its schedule for a full return to democracy by lifting political bans and conducting a democratic parliamentary election.

He concluded: As all these developments prove, there is no administrative measure necessary for the strengthening of democracy in Turkey. Democracy is functioning fully in our country with all its institutions and principles in accordance with our people's way of life and free choice.

Concludes 4-Day Visit

LD201334 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 20 Jan 88

[Excerpt] This morning Turkish President Kenan Evren left Algeria after a 4-day official visit to our country. He was seen off at Houari Boumedienne International Airport by Chadli Bendjedid, president of the Republic and secretary general of the FLN Party; government and party officials; and members of the diplomatic corps accredited to Algeria.

Presidents Chadli Bendedid and Kenan Evren held a final round of talks this morning at Al-Mithaq residence. The two countries' foreign ministers and the heads of the presidential offices of the two countries attended the talks. [passage omitted]

Bendjedid Meets With Yugoslav Ambassador

LD211437 Algiers APS in English 1306 GMT 21 Jan 88

[Text] Algiers, 21 Jan (APS)—President Chadli Bendjedid audienced Wednesday here the ambassador of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to Algeria, Borislav Milosevic.

During this audience the Yugoslav ambassador submitted tc President Chadli Bendjedid a message from the Yugoslav President Lazar Mojsov.

Egypt

Bomb at U.S. Consulate Reportedly Israeli Made

JN211037 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0958 GMT 21 Jan 88

[Text] Cairo, 21 Jan (WAKH)—There has been a serious development in the matter of the bomb explosion near the U.S. Consulate in Alexandria. Investigations have proved that the explosion was the result of a time noise [istri'radiyah] bomb. In its issue today, the Egyptian newspaper AL-WAFD said that this type of bomb is not produced in Egypt and that Israel monopolizes its production under a license from the U.S. manufacturer. It has also been revealed that this type of explosive is not used by the Egyptian Armed Forces.

A bomb exploded near the U.S. Consulate in Alexandria 2 weeks ago, causing a loud noise.

Mubarak Said To Reject Return to Autonomy Talks

PM211727 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 21 Jan 88 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Cairo Diplomatic Sources Tell AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: Mubarak Confirmed During His Arab Tour That There Will Be No Return to Autonomy Talks"]

[Text] Cairo, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT Bureau—According to informed diplomatic sources in Cairo, President Husni Mubarak, during his Arab tour, assured the leaders of the GCC states, as well as PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, that he totally rejects any partial solutions to the Middle East problem.

The sources told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that Mubarak had informed the Gulf leaders that Egypt will not resume the autonomy talks, that messages exchanged with the United States and Israel explained the Egyptian position in this regard, and that Egypt insists on its position.

They added that President Husni Mubarak had briefed the Arab leaders on the results of Egypt's contacts since 1986 regarding the question of an international conference. He also told them that Egypt has official documents proving that the United States and Israel have agreed to such a conference, and that when he visits Washington he will ask the U.S. Administration to take a clear public position on the idea of an international conference.

The sources further noted that the Arab leaders had reaffirmed to President Mubarak their appreciation of and support for the Egyptian position, and stressed the need for a coordination of Arab positions to bring pressure to bear on Washington to announce its acceptance of the idea of such a conference.

Meanwhile, Egyptian Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid has stated that Egypt's commitment to the Arab states is essential. In a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, he said that the aim of President Husni Mubarak's forthcoming visit to Washington and some European states is to boost the peace efforts in the interest of a comprehensive settlement of the Middle East question.

Such a settlement, he said, must be based on fulfillment of the Palestinian people's inalienable rights and on participation of the PLO, their legitimate representative, in the peace efforts.

Dr 'Abd al-Majid urged Israel to take a step demonstrating its interest in peace.

Paper Views Israeli Peace Conference 'Refusal'
NC210650 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2230 GMT 20 Jan 88

[Text] Cairo, 20 Jan (MENA)—AL-AKHBAR emphasizes that Israel will not be able to conceal the real reason for its refusal of the idea of convening an international conference for peace in the region.

The paper says that the Israeli leaders, be they hawks or doves, realize that an international conference will under no circumstances sanction the illegitimacy of the acquisition of land that has been occupied by force. It will instead frustrate the hopes of the Tel Aviv rulers to eventually annex the West Bank and Gaza.

In its Thursday commentary, the paper declares that Israel will not be able to continue dodging an international conference, since a majority of the world leaders now believe that such a conference is the only sound way to resolve any international problem by peaceful means and spare the international community wars or violent confrontations, especially in such a vital strategic region where the prevalence of calm and peace is in the interest of all states.

The paper says that the world public will very clearly come to realize the real reasons for the Tel Aviv rulers' opposition to convening an international conference. By such a stand, Israel shows that it does not want peace in the region as long as it will be deprived of Arab land, which it wants to steal before the eyes of the world.

Mubarak Comments on Palestinian Issues at Fair
NC211422 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 21 Jan 88

[Excerpts] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak opened the 20th Cairo International Book Fair being held at the fairgrounds in Nasr city this morning and then toured the various pavilions. [passage omitted]

The president underlined the efforts being made to achieve peace, asserting that security in the Gulf has a bearing on security in Egypt. Responding to a question on the Palestinian uprising in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, the president pointed out that this uprising is the alarm bell for all parties, for the Palestinians, Israelis, Arabs, and the world alike. It thus demands that everyone act to achieve a just and comprehensive peace, to bring an end to violence, and to provide a favorable atmosphere to speed up efforts for holding an international peace conference. The president noted that we do not want to let the Palestinian issue become a missed opportunity, since time further complicates the situation in the occupied Arab territories in the West Bank and the Golan Heights. The president said that Egypt has an initiative in this regard which will be declared. [passage omitted]

Abu Ghazalah Addresses Consultative Council
NC182211 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2050 GMT 18 Jan 88

[Text] Cairo, 18 Jan (MENA)—Field Marshal Muhammad 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, deputy prime minister and minister of defense and war production, has reiterated that an ideal solution to the ongoing war in the Gulf could be achieved if all the Arabs would confront Iran overtly and without fear. Field Marshal Abu Ghazalah said that this would restrain the Iranian regime and force it to stop the war and hold negotiations, particularly since the Arabs possess the potential, know-how, and appropriate quantity of weapons to enable them to play a decisive role in ending this war.

In a statement at today's meeting of the Arab and Foreign Affairs and National Security Committee of the Consultative Council, chaired by Speaker Dr 'Ali Lutfi, Field Marshal Abu Ghazalah asserted that Iran continues to lay down conditions for ending the war with Iraq. Shi'ite revolutionary ideology still provides the principal impetus for Iran's persistence in continuing the war with the aim of exporting extremist revolutionary ideology to various parts of the Islamic world, relying on the dense Shi'ite population in countries around the Arabian Peninsula.

In his statement, Field Marshal Abu Ghazalah said that there is no enmity between Egypt and the Libyan people. He added, however, that the Libyan regime is seeking foreign know-how from East European and Arab countries and that it is tempting mercenaries with money. The defense minister warned that those who are enticed by money are capable of anything, since they have no consideration for values, principles, or patriotic feelings.

Reviewing the strategic, political, and military situation in the area and its effects on Egyptian national security, Field Marshal Abu Ghazalah discussed the confrontation between the big powers. He said that these confrontations have an effect on Third World and Middle Eastern countries, and undoubtedly also affect Egyptian national security.

Abu Ghazalah then examined the basic components of the various forces in any country, including manpower, potentials, and military forces. He said that a balance should be maintained among these forces so that a country does not go beyond its own boundaries in an attempt to rectify an imbalance and restore equilibrium in one way or another.

UK's Trefgarne Views Defense Cooperation

NC191430 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1315 GMT 19 Jan 88

[Text] Cairo, 19 Jan (MENA)—Lord Trefgarne, British minister of state for defense procurement, held talks today with Eng Jamal al-Sayyid Ibrahim, Egyptian minister of state for war production, and Lieutenant General Ibrahim 'Abd al-Ghafur al-'Urabi, chairman of the board of directors of the Arab Industrialization Organization. The discussion, held during Lord Trefgarne's stopover at Cairo Airport on his way from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to his own country, focused on ways to promote Egyptian-British cooperation in the defense industry sphere.

The British minister of state said that the talks dealt with bolstering relations between the two countries. He noted that this is his third visit to Egypt and comes within the context of promoting defense industry cooperation between the two countries, which began extensively in 1983.

Jamal al-Sayyid Ibrahim stated that the talks had provided a good opportunity to discuss and review the joint projects being undertaken by Britain, the Egyptian Ministry of War Production, and the Arab Industrialization Organization. He noted that their cooperation in the field of war production has been going on for a long time and added that efforts are constantly being made to develop this cooperation.

Eng Jamal al-Sayyid Ibrahim said that Britain had offered at an earlier date to help build the Egyptian tank factory and that it had already agreed to allocate part of the British loan to Egypt for the purpose of repairing Egyptian armored vehicles.

Arms Sales to Some African States Rejected

PM201647 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 17 Jan 88 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Egypt Refuses To Sell Arms to African States Lest They Find Their Way to Iran"]

[Text] Cairo—AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned from informed Egyptian sources that Egypt has recently rejected orders and requests submitted by certain African states for Egyptian arms and ammunition after learning that such arms and ammunition would eventually reach other parties, including Iran.

The sources emphasized that Egypt had made it a precondition that agreements on purchasing Egyptian arms and ammunition must include a stipulation banning their transfer to a third party without Egypt's prior approval.

The sources also said that the Egyptian rejection decision was made in light of reports from the Egyptian embassies in these states about Iranian infiltration and increasing activity in these states, as well as the use of economic, trade, and oil cooperation as a cover for military cooperation and activity.

'Abd al-Majid Meets With Soviet Envoy 19 Jan

NC191508 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1425 GMT 19 Jan 88

[Text] Cairo, 19 Jan (MENA)—Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, received Gennadiy Zhuravlev, Soviet ambassador to Cairo, today. Bilateral relations, efforts to hold an international conference for Middle East peace, and recent developments in the occupied Arab territories were discussed during the meeting.

Ghali Returns From African, French Tour 17 Jan

NC172157 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 17 Jan 88

[Text] Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, returned to Cairo this evening at the conclusion of a tour which included stops in Guinea, Mali, and France. Upon his arrival, his excellency stated that he will submit a comprehensive report to President Mubarak on the results of the talks he held in the three countries.

He added that Guinean President Lansana Conte had asked him to convey a verbal message to President Mubarak. Dr Ghali also noted that he had delivered a written message from President Mubarak to the Guinean

president. His excellency praised the results of the meetings of the third session of the Egyptian-Guinean Joint Committee, which was held in Guinea. He said that he had had intensive contacts with Guinean officials on ways to promote bilateral relations in various spheres. Dr Ghali held talks with the Malian foreign minister, during which they agreed to hold the two countries' upcoming joint committee session in Cairo next month.

The minister of state for foreign affairs announced that he had also held positive discussions with Tunisian Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche in Paris.

Mahjub Returns With Senegalese Leader's Message

NC212201 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2145 GMT 21 Jan 87

[Excerpt] Cairo, 21 Jan (MENA)—Awqaf Minister Dr Muhammad 'Ali Mahjub and the delegation accompanying him returned to Cairo from Paris tonight following a 1-week trip to Senegal and France. Dr Mahjub, who had presented a message from President Husni Mubarak to Senegalese President Abdou Diouf, said that he is carrying a message from President Diouf for President Mubarak in which the Senegalese president expresses his support and that of his people for the wise policies of President Mubarak. [passage omitted]

Rwanda Foreign Minister Arrives in Cairo 19 Jan

NC191548 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1514 GMT 19 Jan 88

[Text] Cairo, 19 Jan (MENA)—Rwandan Foreign Minister Francois Ngarukiyintwali arrived in Cairo this afternoon on a 3-day visit to Egypt. The visit is in response to an invitation from Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs.

In an arrival statement, the Rwandan foreign minister said that he has brought a message for President Husni Mubarak from Rwanda President Major General Juvenal Habyarimana. He stated that he will meet with Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Field Marshal Muhammad 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, deputy prime minister and minister of defense and war production; and Dr Yusuf Wali, deputy prime minister and minister of agriculture and land reclamation. He added that he will discuss with them ways of strengthening relations between the two countries in various fields. He praised existing ties between Rwanda and Egypt.

The Rwandan foreign minister was received at the airport by Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs.

Received by Mubarak

NC201147 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1145 GMT 20 Jan 88

[Excerpt] Cairo, 20 Jan (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak today received Rwandan Foreign Minister Francois Ngarukiyintwali, who arrived in Cairo yesterday. Attending the meeting were Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, and Rwandan Ambassador to Cairo Jean Yingura [name as received].

Following the meeting, the Rwandan minister stated that he had given President Mubarak a message from Rwandan President Juvenal Habyarimana. He added that he discussed with the president the development of Egyptian-Rwandan relations and ways to bolster them in the various fields. [passage omitted]

Condemns Israeli Repressions

NC211440 Cairo MENA in English 1405 GMT 21 Jan 88

[Text] Cairo, Jan 21 (MENA)—Egypt and Rwanda today voiced their strong condemnation of Israel's inhuman and repressive measures in the occupied Arab lands as well as the expulsion of Palestinians in the violation of the Geneva Convention.

This came in a joint statement released here today at the end of the visit of Rwanda's Foreign Minister Francois Ngarukiyintwali.

The two countries also affirmed their support for the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people particularly their right to self determination.

They also expressed their conviction that a just and durable peace in the Middle East could only be achieved through the respect of the national rights of the parties concerned as well as Israel's withdrawal from the occupied territories.

The communique affirmed that a UN-sponsored international peace conference to be attended by all the parties concerned including the PLO would provide the best opportunity for achieving a just, peaceful and lasting settlement of the problem.

The two sides also affirmed their adherence to the goals and principles of the Organization of African Unity and deplored apartheid and shameful practices being carried out by the racist regime in Pretoria.

Holds News Conference

NC212026 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1755 GMT 21 Jan 88

[Text] Cairo, 21 Jan (MENA)—Rwandan Foreign Minister Francois Ngarukiyintwali has described the relations between Rwanda and Egypt as excellent. At a news conference this evening, the Rwandan minister

expressed satisfaction over the outcome of his visit to Cairo. He said that he had conveyed an invitation from the Rwandan president to President Husni Mubarak to visit Rwanda, adding that President Mubarak had accepted the invitation. He noted that the date for such a visit will be determined later.

The Rwandan minister hailed the progress being made in bilateral ties, noting in this regard that the two sides have agreed to set up a joint technical committee, which will meet on a biannual basis, in order to explore the prospects for boosting bilateral cooperation. The Rwandan minister mentioned that several Egyptian education and agricultural experts are currently in Rwanda and expressed the hope that their number will grow in the future.

The Rwandan foreign minister stressed his country's support for the Palestinians' rights to self-determination and to their own state, noting that a Middle East settlement cannot be found without a just and lasting settlement of the Palestinian issue.

Departs Cairo 21 Jan

NC220645 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2255 GMT 21 Jan 88

[Text] Cairo, 21 Jan (MENA)—Francois Ngarukiyintwali, Rwanda's minister of foreign affairs and cooperation, left Cairo tonight following a 3-day visit to Egypt. The Rwandan minister noted before his departure that President Husni Mubarak had given him a message for Rwandan President Juvenal Habyarimana. He added that his visit, during which he met with President Mubarak and senior Egyptian officials, will help to strengthen cooperation between the two countries.

The Rwandan visitor was seen off by Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs.

YAR's Makki Concludes Visit, Departs 18 Jan

NC181334 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1200 GMT 18 Jan 88

[Text] Cairo, 18 Jan (MENA)—YAR Deputy Prime Minister Dr Hasan Makki left Cairo today after participating in AAPSO's 30th anniversary celebrations. He also attended the extraordinary meeting that was convened by the Egyptian Committee for Afro-Asian Solidarity in order to discuss the Palestinian uprising and Israel's represssive measures against it.

He was see off by Ahmad Hamrush, chairman of the Egyptian AAPSO Committee, and Mazhar Muhammad Mazhar, YAR ambassador in Cairo.

YAR Envoy Arrives With Message for Mubarak

NC211303 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1250 GMT 21 Jan 88

[Excerpt] Cairo, 21 Jan (MENA)—'Abdallah al-Ahmar, the YAR president's adviser, arrived in Cairo this afternoon on a visit that will last for several days. He stated that he is carrying a message from YAR President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih to President Muhammad Husni Mubarak on bilateral relations. [passage omitted]

Science Officials Depart for Talks in Jordan

NC171915 Cairo MENA in English 1857 GMT 17 Jan 88

[Text] Cairo, Jan 17 (MENA)—Dr 'Adil 'Izz, state minister for scientific research and Dr Abu al-Futuh 'Abd al-Latif, head of the Scientific Research Academy, left here tonight for Amman on a five-day visit.

In a pre-departure statement, Dr 'Izz said he will discuss with Jordanian officials means of stepping up cooperation between both countries in various fields.

He added that he will discuss during his stay in Jordan preparation for the 2nd Arab Conference on Scientific Research, due to be held in Jordan in September.

Paper Claims Israel Using Drugs For Subversion

PM211447 Cairo AL-AHRAR in Arabic 11 Jan 88 p 3

[Salim 'Azzuz Report: "Drug War: Zionist Scheme To Exhaust Egypt's Economy and Destroy Its Youth]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] Interior Ministry figures indicate that $6 billion worth of drugs enter Egypt every year! [passage omitted]

These terrifying figures prove that the drug war is taking place on a front more than 5,000 km long, and that this raging war is run by foreign and Zionist quarters under a vicious and horrifying scheme aimed at destroying the Egyptian people and sabotaging its economic and social system. [passage omitted]

Labor union legal adviser Mustafa Agha stresses that the prime objective of world Zionism is to destroy the Egyptian people. Therefore, it adopts all available means, including destructive and lethal ones—namely, debts, rats, poisoned fertilizers, hoof-and-mouth disease, radiation-contaminated food, and all sorts of terrifying and lethal types of drugs. Scientifically, we can see that the quantities of drugs published in the press is declining in comparison with the true figures. However, the huge and astronomical quantities seized could not possibly have been smuggled by individuals or companies, but indeed only by states. And it is no state other than Israel which has seized upon the opportunity of the so-called peace and sent its men in search of agents here to cooperate with it in various forms in destroying both the

health and mentality of the Egyptian people, thus clearing the way to proceed at a mad speed toward achieving the objectives of the racist Zionism. [passage omitted]

Briefs

Oil, Gas Production Figures

Cairo, 18 Jan (MENA)—An official of the Petroleum and Mineral Resources Ministry stated today that Egyptian output of crude oil during the second half of last year totaled 22,808,000 metric tons. He added that the value of Egyptian oil exports during the same period amounted to approximately 747 million pounds, while imports totaled approximately 175 million pounds, leaving a surplus in the oil balance of payments of approximately 573 million pounds. The official reported that Egyptian output of natural gas and its derivatives during the second half of last year was 3,034,000 metric tons. [Excerpts] [*Cairo MENA in Arabic 1321 GMT 18 Jan 88 NC*]

Trade Protocol With Sudan

Cairo, 16 Jan (MENA)—Egypt and Sudan today initialed a trade protocol for the current year totaling $225 million, including $105 million in the form of Egyptian exports to Sudan and $120 million in the form of Sudanese exports to Egypt. The protocol also covers a balanced trade exchange amounting to $76 million, and border trade amounting to 8.5 million Egyptian pounds. 'Adil al-Jarihi, first under secretary at the Egyptian Ministry of Economy and Foreign Trade, and 'Umar al-Mubarak Abu Zayd, under secretary at the Sudanese Ministry of Trade and Supply, who is visiting Cairo, signed the protocol. [Excerpt] [*Cairo MENA in Arabic 1532 GMT 16 Jan 88 NC*]

Aid Agreement With Finland

Cairo, Jan 21 (MENA)—Egypt and Finland today signed an agreement whereby the latter is to extend to the former soft loans and grants worth 80 million dollars. Under the agreement, the Finnish side will finance a number of power, industrial and construction projects included in the current five-year development plan. Minister of State for International Cooperation Maurice Makramallah signed for Egypt and the Finnish ambassador who is also chairman of the Finnish Aid Programme signed for his country. The agreement was signed during the meeting of the Egyptian-Finnish joint commission which wound up here today. [Text] [*Cairo MENA in English 1300 GMT 21 Jan 88 NC*]

Finance Agreement With Austria

Cairo, Jan 20 (MENA)—Agreement was concluded with Austrian finance and industrial organizations on financing new expansion schemes at the iron and steel plant in Hulwan to double steel output within two years. The agreement worth 80 million pounds provides for payment facilities. The executive measures of this project will start early next July. The agreement was signed early this week at the plant in Hulwan. The increase of production of steel sheets is needed to cope with expansion in car manufacture, ship building and the production of refrigerators, washing machines and stoves. [Text] [*Cairo MENA in English 1200 GMT 20 Jan 88 NC*]

New Publication

The Economy Ministry has agreed to establish the Al-Hurriyah House for Press, Printing, and Publication. The chairman of the board of directors will be former Health Minister Dr Mahmud Mahfuz. The house will publish a weekly magazine entitled AL-HURRIYAH, whose chief editor will be Muhammad Jabr. [Summary] [*Cairo AL-AHRAR in Arabic 11 Jan 1988 p 1 PM*]

Libya

'Source' Rebukes French Minister on Chad

LD2[illegible]620 Tripoli JANA in English 1435 GMT 21 Jan 88

[Text] Tripoli, Ayn al-Nar [January] 21, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—In reply to comments made by the French defence minister following his latest visit to some African countries, a source at the People's Committee for Foreign Liaison has made the following comments:

First: The comments made by the French minister saying that he had discussed with officials in these countries the Chadian problems and the activities of the good-will committee cause amazement for two reasons:

A—France, being a European country and member of the EEC pokes its nose in the work of an African committee formed by a resolution passed by an African summit to deal with the African problem concerning African quarters, what justification can give France the right to discuss the work of the good-will committee and the results of its meetings?

B—France is still faithful to its colonialist logic. Its deeds contradict its comments. It says that [it] is keen on achieving peace in Chad, whilst it prepares the airport of Faya to make it suitable for the landing of all military aircraft.

Second: The French minister of defence has been keen to give the impression that the countries he has visited support the French orientations. It is a common knowledge that the African countries and the Organization of African Unity have stressed their keen desire to solve the problems of the continent with no intervention from the colonialist forces which are only interested in imposing their hegemony on and perpetrate their exploitation of our continent.

Third: Great al-Jamahiriyah sees in these moves and comments what causes surprise and amazement, apart from indicating any good will on the part of France. Great al-Jamahiriyah regards in the comments of the French official an assertion of the tendencies of military escalation which has been backed by France at the outset to justify its colonialist and military presence in Africa and Chad.

The stance of France as expressed by the comments made by the French minister of defence doesn't serve the chance of peace in Chad. It only undermines the efforts of the Organization of the African Unity and obstructs the work of the good-will committee.

Jallud, Algerian Envoy Discuss Cooperation

LD211314 Algiers APS in Arabic 0830 GMT 21 Jan 88

[Text] Algiers, 21 Jan (APS)—Abdelkader Hadjar, Central Committee member and Algeria's ambassador to Libya, was received yesterday by Staff Major Ahmad 'Abd al-Salam Jallud.

During the meeting, the talks centered on bilateral relations, notably economic integration between the two countries and efforts to build the Greater Maghreb, in addition to other issues of common interest.

Mauritania

Cooperation Agreement Signed With Egypt

AB211029 Nouakchott Domestic Service in French 0730 GMT 21 Jan 88

[Text] Mauritania and Egypt yesterday signed a protocol agreement in Nouakchott on technical cooperation in all fields, especially in the field of training, and the sending of Egyptian experts to our country. The document was signed for Mauritania by Mr Abderrahim Ould Hadrani, director of the African Department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation. The Egyptian side was represented by Mr Ahmad Tahir Mohammad, secretary general of the Egyptian Fund for Cooperation With Africa.

Taya Chairs Committee, Presents Annual Report

LD180230 Nouakchott Domestic Service in Arabic 2030 GMT 17 Jan 88

[Excerpt] The Military Committee for National Salvation convened an ordinary session on 13-16 January 1988 under the chairmanship of Colonel Maaouya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya, chairman of the Military Committee for National Salvation and head of state.

During the session, the chairman of the Military Committee for National Salvation presented a report on the government's activities over the elapsed year.

On the domestic front, efforts were basically focused on strictly following up the implementation of the economic reform and finance program for achieving comprehensive reform in the national economy, intensifying contacts with citizens in order to listen to them and to mobilize them, and continuing the process of spreading democracy through setting up municipalities and reinforcing the state's foundations.

On the domestic front [as heard], efforts were centered on diplomatic work toward widening and strengthening bonds of cooperation with all sisterly and friendly countries. The Military Committee for National Salvation has registered its satisfaction with the tangible progress achieved in all domains of national life. It also particularly expressed its satisfaction with the results of the illiteracy eradication campaign and the progress achieved in the municipal elections.

The permanent secretary of the Military Committee for National Salvation submitted a report on the activities of the masses' education bodies over the last year.

Finally, the Military Committee for National Salvation has studied and approved draft Law No 459 containing the budget law for 1988. [passage omitted]

Taya Message Delivered to Guinea Bissau

AB200851 Nouakchott Domestic Service in French 0730 GMT 20 Jan 88

[Text] Major Mohamed Lemine Ould N'Diayane, minister of foreign affairs and cooperation, returned to Nouakchott on 18 January after a visit to Bissau. During the visit, he delivered a message from Colonel Maaouya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya, chairman of the Military Committee for National Salvation and head of state, to the Guinea Bissau president, General Joao Bernardo Vieira. The minister said that the message concerns the strengthening of cooperation between the two countries. Maj Mohamed Lemine Ould N'Diayane also held discussions with the Guinea Bissau foreign minister and the secretary of state for fisheries and commercial shipping. The discussions concerned the revitalization of bilateral cooperation in the field of fisheries, commerce, and industry. In addition to these discussions, the foreign affairs and cooperation minister met with the Mauritanian community living in Guinea Bissau.

Head of State Receives Algerian Envoy

LD210237 Nouakchott Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 20 Jan 88

[Text] The chairman of the Military Committee for National Salvation and head of state has received Mr Mohamed Ben Ahmed Abdelghani, member of the Algerian FLN Politburo and minister of state for the presidency, who was carrying a special message from President Chadli Bendjedid, president of the democratic and popular Republic of Algeria.

Their talks dealt with bilateral relations and the situation in North Africa.

Morocco

Death, Injuries at Fes University Demonstration

LD221127 Rabat MAP in French 1000 GMT 22 Jan 88

[Excerpts] Fes, 22 Jan (MAP)—Student demonstrations took place late Wednesday morning at Fes University resulting in several injuries among the students and the forces of order. Initially, the demonstration was aimed at giving support to the fight of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories, but the students were soon overcome by extremist elements who forced the students of the Chariaa Letires, law and sciences faculties into following their movement. [passage omitted]

The clashes resulted in injuries among several people on both sides. Nine demonstrators were injured and one of them, a young female student named Lalla Souad Saidi, was seriously hurt by stones. She was taken by the emergency services to Al-Ghassani hospital where she died of her injuries. Among the forces of order, 13 agents were injured—9 policemen and 4 members of the auxilliary forces—2 of them seriously. [passage omitted]

USSR Peace Committee Delegation Holds Talks

LD211319 Rabat Map in English 1216 GMT 21 Jan 88

[Text] Rabat, Jan 21 (MAP)—The visiting delegation from the Soviet Committee for Peace, led by Maksud I. Ibragimbekov, Wednesday conferred here with the members of the Moroccan Committee for Peace, Solidarity and Friendship between Peoples on hot issues worldwide and the means to restore peace in troubled regions.

The two sides looked into the action by Morocco and the USSR to halt the armament race and their support to the UNO efforts for peace in the Middle East and reviewed the action of the Al-Quds committee in this respect, as well as their backing to the Palestinian cause.

The Istiqlal party member Mohamed al-Wafa [name as receied] dealt with the Sahara issue underlining the unanimity of the Moroccan people for the defense of its territorial integrity and said the holding of a referendum in the Sahara is a factor for peace in the region.

He surveyed the issue of the two Moroccan northern towns of Ceuta and Melilla which are still under Spanish rule, the Moroccan-EEC negotiations and the democratic process in Morocco.

The two parties also tackled other questions such as the Gulf war, the holding of an international conference on peace in the Middle East, the struggle of the Namibian people against apartheid, and stability in Latin America.

The Moroccan Committee for Peace, Solidarity and Friendship between Peoples was created in 1978 by the Istiqlal party (nationalist), the Socialist Union for Popular forces (USFP) and the Party for Progress and Socialism (PPS-Communist).

Sudan

Further on Assassination of Iraqi Shi'ite

Al-Husayn on Investigation

JN211220 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1050 GMT 21 Jan 88

[Text] Khartoum, 21 Jan (SUNA)—The Sudanese Interior Ministry has said that it knows nothing about the Iraqi Shi'ite who was killed last Sunday and that the Ministry had no information about him either before or after his entry into the country.

Stating this to the newspaper AL-ITTIHAD today, Interior Minister Ahmad al-Husayn said he personally instructed the competent security organs in the Passport Department not to allow any of the Iraqi Al-Hakim family members to enter Sudan and that if the so-called Muhammad Baqir al-Hakim succeeds in entering Sudan he should be deported immediately from Khartoum airport or any Sudanese seaport because the minister had information this man is an Iraqi opposition official.

The minister noted that the assassinated man was originally heading for another country but certain political circles persuaded him to enter Sudan.

The minister also said that the responsibility of protecting hotels and security in general should be a collective task, in which various executive organs should participate, affirming that the assassinated person arrived in Sudan at the invitation of the Islamic Front to attend its second congress, as evident from notations on his visa.

The minister said the Interior Ministry did not receive any request from the Islamic Front or the Arab Agriculture Ministers conference to protect the Iraqi Shi'ite official or conference delegates.

On another level, investigations are continuing to unravel the mystery of this assassination and apprehend the culprits, although no suspects have been arrested so far. The search is continuing for the diplomatic car, which eyewitnesses say the culprits used to perpetrate their crime and in which they escaped.

On another level, Police General Ibrahim 'Abd al-Karim told the newspaper AL-HADAF that investigations in the assassination are now the responsibility of the public prosecutor and any discussion of this issue will hinder investigations. The Passport Department director said a special committee has been formed to investigate the

Islamic Front's claims that the Department was lenient in granting entry visas for delegates to the Front's congress, which concluded its sessions last week.

Al-Mahdi Receives Iranians

LD211200 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 21 Jan 88

[Text] A high-ranking delegation from the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq and from our Foreign Ministry arrived last night in Khartoum, the capital of Sudan, and was given a warm welcome by high-ranking military and state officials and a number of Islamic movement leaders.

Sudan's minister of justice expressed his condolences to the delegation on the occasion of the martyrdom of Hojjat ol-Eslam Seyyed Mahdi al-Hakim, stressing that all security organs are on alert and that the Supreme Investigation Committee, under his personal supervision, is making every effort to identify those who committed this crime. The search will not end until the perpetrator has been arrested and announced to the Islamic world.

The delegation met Sudanese Prime Minister Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi. In this meeting, the delegation expressed their thanks to the Sudanese Government and urged it to follow up this issue with all seriousness so the blood of the martyr Al-Hakim will not have been shed in vain and the identity of the offenders will be exposed to the Islamic world.

Sudan's prime minister, while expressing his condolences to the family of the martyr Seyyed Mahdi Hakim, emphasized this matter will be followed up.

Body Flown to Tehran

JN211727 Khartoum SUNA in English 1705 GMT 21 Jan 88

[Text] Khartoum, Jan. 21 (SUNA)—The body of the Iraqi opposition leader Mahdi al-Hakim, who was assassinated here last Sunday, was carried to Iran today. The body was carried to Tehran by an Iranian plane that arrived here yesterday night.

29 persons representing the Islamic/Iraqi opposition group-backed by the Iranian authorities to which the assassinated leader belongs, arrived on board the plane.

The Sudanese authorities have decided to send the body to Tehran following contacts with the relatives of the deceased in Iran and the United Arab Emirates. The relatives of Al-Mahdi have consented sending the body to Iran in order to be burried there.

Iraqi Envoy on Slaying

JN211731 Khartoum SUNA in English 1710 GMT 21 Jan 88

[Text] Khartoum, Jan. 21 (SUNA)—Iraqi Ambassador to the Sudan Tariq Muhammad Yahya stated, here lately, that the killers of Iraqi Shi'ite leader Mahdi al Hakim, who was slain at Khartoum-Hilton Hotel last Sunday, aimed to undermine Sudanese-Iraqi relations which witnessed recently an increasing progress following invitation extended by Prime Minister Al-Sadiq Al-Mahdi to vice-president of Iraqi Revolution Command Council, 'Izzat Ibrahim, to visit the Sudan.

The Iraqi ambassador expressed hope that the investigating committee in the assassination of the Shi'ite leader will manage to uncover the real criminals as soon as possible, so that everybody knows identity of those criminals.

Cabinet Condemns Assassination

JN211755 Khartoum SUNA in Englis' '1740 GMT 21 Jan 88

[Text] Khartoum, Jan. 21 (SUNA)—The Cabinet has strongly condemned the assassination here last Sunday of a prominent Iraqi opposition leader. The Cabinet in its regular meeting here Thursday bitterly denounced the "brutal crime" and said it is principally against "political assassination".

A Cabinet statement said the government is determined to deal with the incident with the utmost concern until the of the crime [as received] were brought to justice and all facts related to the crime made public.

The statement said the Cabinet attaches high importance to the incident given its notoriety and the major perils it implies. The Cabinet was briefed during the meeting on the details of the incident and the measures taken by the concerned organs.

On the other hand, a ministerial fact-finding committee was formed to investigate into the incident and find out the reasons behind the crime and the measures to be followed with the of [as received] warding off the dangers posed by such a crime.

Patrol Seizes Chadian Opposition Vehicles

JN211454 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1420 GMT 21 Jan 88

[Text] Khartoum, 2jan [SUNA]—A joint patrol from the Army and the police recently seized 11 land rover vehicles loaded with weapons and munitions. The vehicles belong to a Chadian opposition group. Dr Adam Muhammad Ahmad, deputy governor of the Darfur Region, today announced that contacts are under way

between the northern Sudanese Darfur Governorate and the Chadian Abeche Governorate to pursue the armed gangs of robbers and infiltrators into the common border.

In a statement to the press, his excellency the deputy governor reiterated there are no Libyan forces in Sudan. He added Sudan did not and will not allow any foreign forces to be stationed on its territory. Sudan will pursue any forces that penetrate its territory, he added. His excellency expressed hope that the civil administration will be able to restore security to the region after it returns to work in accordance with administrative and legal powers as recommended by the conference on Darfur security.

Border To Open, Allow Relief for Ethiopia
JN211517 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1420 GMT 21 Jan 88

[Text] Khartoum, 21 Jan (SUNA)—The Sudanese Government today expressed readiness to allow the use of its territory and ports to send relief materials through the Sudanese border to starvation-struck areas in Ethiopia.

The government appealed to the international community to contribute toward halting the influx of refugees into Sudan by sending relief materials to various areas.

This came during a meeting here today between Foreign Minister Ma'mun Sanadah and Swedish Immigration Minister Georg Andersson, who is visiting Sudan from 18-24 January to get acquainted with the problems of refugees in Sudan.

Dr Sanadah explained to the guest minister the dimensions of the refugee problem and the growing burden on Sudan's people and government. This prompted the Sudanese Government to block the eastern border to prevent the entry of any new refugees.

Dr Sanadah reviewed with the Swedish minister Sudan's foreign policy and relations with its neighbors, as well as the attempts to hold a meeting by the joint committee with Ethiopia. The two ministers touched on the internal situation and preparations for the constitutional conference.

Dr Sanadah explained in detail Sudan's views on the major political issues regarding southern Africa, the Middle East, and the Iraq-Iran war.

Rebels Refute Government Claims on Kapoeta
EA212135 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 21 Jan 88

[Text] Compatriots, as you may have heard from the details of the capture of Kapoeta, Kapoeta was captured on 12 January 1988 by the SPLA forces of the "Bright Star" Campaign, consisting of the forces of the first axis, fourth axis, Eastern Equatoria and central south Sudan zonal command.

Since the capture of Kapoeta last week, Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi has refused to comment or admit defeat. He still insists his forces are in Kapoeta. This shows how Al-Sadiq is ignorant of what is going on in the war. He has no contacts with his officers in the field.

And, as we know Al-Sadiq is a professional liar, he is going to make a lot of cheap lies that his forces made a tactical withdrawal from Kapoeta or that his forces took civilians to a safe place, as he did say when Pibor and Jokau were captured. What he must explain to the Sudanese people and to his Army leaders is why make the withdrawal or evacuate the civilians up to Kenya and Uganda?

Oh, people, Al-Sadiq must accept the reality. Kapoeta was taken by [the] iron fist of the SPLA after 6 hours of bitter fighting. He must accept that he has lost Kapoeta plus his heavy guns which the SPLA has gained. "Bright Star" campaign! Victory to the people! SPLA shall win!

Tunisia

Baccouche on Al-Qadhdhafi Delay, Egyptian Ties
LD160944 Kuwait KUNA in English 0803 GMT 16 Jan 88

[Text] Kuwait, Jan 16 (KUNA)—Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's visit to Tunis, which was scheduled to take place Saturday, has been postponed, the Tunisian Premier Baccouche said.

In an interview with daily AL-QABAS, published here today, Baccouche, currently on a visit to France, said his country is planning to restore diplomatic ties with Egypt within the coming few weeks adding that contacts between Tunis and Cairo, on that regard, are currently underway.

Diplomatic relations between Tunisia and Egypt were severed in 1979 when the latter signed a peace treaty with Israel.

On Tunisian-Iranian relations, Baccouche stated that his country will not resume its diplomatic ties with Iran unless a peaceful solution to the Iraq-Iran war is found. Ties between the two countries were severed last year when Tunis accused Iran of instigating and supporting sabotage actions in Tunis.

Baccouche said that the Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali will visit Saudi Arabia in the near future and added that the visit comes in response to an invitation by the Saudi Monarch King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz.

The Tunisian leader will also tour a number of Arab countries, including Arab Gulf states, the Tunisian premier added. Baccouche is scheduled to begin a Gulf tour that includes Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Bahrain and the Sultanate of Oman next Tuesday, AL-QABAS reported.

Sahbani on Ties With Egypt, Libya, Algeria

NC201325 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1200 GMT 20 Jan 88

[Text] Cairo, 20 Jan (MENA)—Taieb Sahbani, Tunisian secretary of state attached to the Foreign Ministry, has declared that the ties linking Egypt and Tunisia were never severed. He noted that his country has its own approach regarding the resumption of relations with Egypt, an approach based on deliberate reflection.

In an interview with AL-MUSAWWAR to be published in 2 days, Friday, Sahbani said his country welcomed the Amman summit resolution and the resumption of relations between Egypt and Arab countries. He asserted that his country's stand can in no way be attributed to a disinclination to resume relations, but rather to the fact Tunisia makes its decisions and then tries to find the best way to apply them.

As for the resumption of relations between Tunisia and Libya, the Tunisian secretary of state said his country responded to this call, having sensed a willingness from Libya to improve ties. Since there are differences between the two countries, he remarked, his country based a normalization of relations on settling these differences once and for all.

Touching on Tunisian-Algerian relations, Sahbani said his country has gone a long way in bolstering their strong ties of brotherhood on the basis of understanding and consultations.

Commenting on the issue of the Arab Maghreb, he stated his country believes in a great Arab Maghreb, an integral and undivided Maghreb. He pointed out that the issue of the Sahara is the impediment to such a desirable Maghreb.

When asked if the path has been paved for Libya to join the brotherhood and cooperation convention signed by Algiers, Tunisia, and Mauritania in 1983, he said such a matter should be decided by the three countries together.

On the Iraq-Iran war, Sahbani confirmed his country's solidarity with Iraq, noting that Tunisia is making every possible effort to avoid the war's expansion. He added Tunisia urges the UN Security Council members to act for the implemention of Resolution 598, which calls for stopping this war.

Triki Lauds Al-Qadhdhafi's Pan-Arab Stance

LD151744 Tripoli JANA in English 1448 GMT 15 Jan 88

[Text] Tripoli, Ayn al-Nar [January] (JANA)—Mr M. A. Triki, Central Committee member of the Tunisian Socialist Destourian Party, in an interview conducted with him by JANA, has lauded the stances of the leader of the revolution and his continuing concern for the pan-Arab questions, apart from his objective analysis of the Arab state of affairs as given in his speech at the opening session of the first pan-Arab congress of ruling Arab parties.

He adds that the proposal for Arab union presented by the leader of the revolution is objective pointing out that it is a formula that can be discussed through a dialogue by all the quarters. Mr Triki stresses that Arab unity is a noble objective.

The convening of the above congress is an important achievement stressing also the importance of Arab Maghreb unity being a step towards the overall Arab unity.

Speaking of the EEC [as received], he points out that it has enabled its peoples to achieve a unity, apart from being a reaction against the U.S. expansionism.

He says that there are active moves among Arab Maghreb countries to lay down firm bases for fruitful cooperation pointing out to some comments circulated by foreign media organs trying to cast doubt on the intentions for achieving cooperation towards the overall Arab unity. He stresses that Arab Maghreb countries have all the right to achieve unity and to defend their interest.

He pays tribute to the rapid improvement in the relations between Tunisia and Great Jamahiriyah stressing that there are many means available to fulfill the will for achieving closeness between these two countries because of their historical and geographical characteristics.

Baccouche Reports Results of Visit to France

LD170302 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 16 Jan 88

[Text] His excellency the president of the Republic, Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, last evening [16 Jan] met in the Palace of the Republic in Carthage with Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche following his return from Paris after an official working visit at the invitation of French Prime Minister Jacques Chirac.

After the meeting, Hedi Baccouche said he had conveyed to the president the greetings and appreciation of President Francois Mitterrand and Jacques Chirac. The prime minister said he briefed the head of state on the contents of his talks with French officials during this visit, stressing it was an occasion that affirmed the exemplary nature of Tunisian-French relations both in terms of humanitarian issues and bilateral cooperation.

Mr Baccouche added he conveyed to the president the greetings of our community in France and their approval of the historical change of 7 November.

Mr Baccouche returned yesterday afternoon from Paris after his 2-day official visit to France at the invitation of his French counterpart Jacques Chirac. The visit was successful with regard to strengthening the exemplary and excellent relations between Tunisia and France.

The prime minister also met the French minister of state for economy and finance and reviewed with him the scope for improving bilateral economic and financial relations.

In addition, the prime minister met with Egyptian Foreign Minister Butrus Ghali, who is also in Paris, and reviewed with him Egyptian-Tunisian relations as well as the most important problems of the hour, particularly the problem of Palestine.

Ben Ali Commutes Death Sentences for 2 Men

LD181831 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 18 Jan 88

[Text] The Ministry of Justice issued a statement saying: President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali has studied two pleas for pardon presented by Mohamed Ben Brahim Ben Amara, alias Mohamed Abidi, and Hacine Ben Omar Ben Mohamed Bel Haj Salah Arbi, both of whom were sentenced to death.

After studying the two death sentences and the work of the pardon committee, his excellency granted pardons to the two men by commuting their death sentences to hard labor for life.

Intra-Gulf Affairs

GCC States Said To Pursue Dialogue With Iran

PM211651 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 21 Jan 88 p 1

[Hasin al-Bunyan report: "Abu Dhabi To Host Dialogue With Iran"]

[Text] The Gulf—AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT sources have confirmed that contacts are currently under way between Tehran and the GCC capitals to set a date and determine the level of official representation at the joint meeting to be held in order to initiate a dialogue between the two sides on ending the Iraq-Iran war, establishing peace, and restoring calm in the region. It has been learned that Abu Dhabi will host the meeting.

The sources said the contacts between Iran and the GCC states have reached an advanced and satisfactory stage in favor of a meeting in the near future. They stressed that one of the main items on the agenda will be commitment by all sides to the peaceful coexistence of all the region's states, respect for the sovereignty of all states, noninterference in the domestic affairs of others, and adherence to the principles of good-neighborliness and international charters.

According to the same sources, the GCC states, though interested in such a dialogue, will, at the expected meetings, emphasize that UN Security Council Resolution 598 of 20 July should be implemented in all its components and clauses as stated by the Security Council without any change or amendment—that is, if Iran really wants to demonstrate goodwill regarding a dialogue with the Arab Gulf states, which are determined to end the war and ward off the threat of conflicts and tension. The GCC states' condition will not be made at the first meeting but will be raised at subsequent sessions.

AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT sources say that the Iranian Government's reply to the message it received from the UAE was positive and calls for more optimism.

They hinted that consultations are now in progress between the leaderships of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, in its capacity as chairman of the current GCC Council session, and the UAE, whose president was entrusted by the Riyadh GCC summit with the task of mediation.

Reportage on Iranian Attacks on Oil Tankers

Norwegian Ship Hit 'By Mistake'

JN220618 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0600 GMT 22 Jan 88

[Text] Gulf shipping sources say Iranian gunboats attacked by mistake in the Strait of Hormuz at dawn today a Norwegian tanker heading for Iran. The sources said that no casualties were sustained but there was material damage. After being attacked off the UAE coast, the ("Hafpel"), which flies the Singapore flag, was forced to change its course to Ras al-Khaymah. It was loaded with liquefied gas.

Further on Attack

JN220714 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0600 GMT 22 Jan 88

[Text] Iranian gunboats attacked a Norwegian tanker in the Strait of Hormuz in the Arabian Gulf at dawn today. Gulf shipping sources said the Norwegian tanker ("Ander") was on its way from Singapore to Dubayy when it was attacked by Iranian gunboats. The shipping sources added that the 11,470-tonne tanker is owned by the Norwegian (Sander) Company.

Panamanian Tanker Attacked

JN221006 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 0935 GMT 22 Jan 88

[Text] Shipping in the Gulf—News agencies have cited shipping sources as saying that Iranian gunboats attacked two tankers in 6 hours in the southern Gulf today, causing a small fire on one of them. The sources said warships in the area rushed to help the Panamanian tanker ("Topaz") after an Iranian gunboat fired 12 rockets at it.

Journalists who were flying aboard a helicopter over the tanker, the second such target attacked by Iranian gunboats today, said that they could see the smoke. However, the fire that broke out on the tanker's deck has been extinguished.

Iranian gunboats also attacked a liquefied gas tanker flying the Singapore flag called the ("Hafpel") early today. The tanker is owned by a Norwegian company. No casualties were reported in the two attacks.

Bahrain

Jordan's Al-Qasim Arrives in Manama 17 Jan

JN171934 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1855 GMT 17 Jan 88

[Text] Manama, 17 (WAKH)—Marwan al-Qasim, chief of the Royal Hashemite Court in Jordan, arrived here from Kuwait this evening on a visit to Bahrain as part of his current tour of a number of countries in the region. He is carrying a message to His Highness Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah, amir of the State of Bahrain, from His Majesty Jordanian King Husayn ibn Talal. Al-Qasim was received by Bahraini Amiri Court Chief Yusuf al-Dawsari.

Reportage on Visit by Tunisian Prime Minister

Arrives in Manama 21 Jan

JN210837 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0745 GMT 21 Jan 88

[Text] Manama, 21 Jan (WAKH)—Tunisian Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche arrived in Manama this morning on an official 2-day visit to Bahrain as part of his current tour of the GCC states. His Highness Shaykh Hamad ibn 'Isa Al Khalifah, deputy amir of Bahrain, led those who received Baccouche upon his arrival. Senior civil and military officials also received him.

The Tunisian prime minister will hold talks with his highness the deputy amir of Bahrain on bilateral relations and ways to bolster them in various areas. Talks will also deal with current developments in the Gulf and Arab arenas, the Palestinian question, joint Arab cooperation, and international issues and matters of mutual interest.

Baccouche is accompanied on this visit by a delegation comprising Mohamed Ghannouchi, minister attached to the prime minister's office in charge of planning; Shaykh Mokhtar Sellami, mufti of Tunisia; Mohamed Jenifane, director of Arab world political affairs at the Tunisian Foreign Ministry; a number of officials; and a press and information delegation.

Talks With Deputy Amir

JN211302 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1145 GMT 21 Jan 88

[Text] Manama, 21 Jan (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Hamad ibn 'Isa Al Khalifah, deputy amir of Bahrain, has received a written message addressed to His Highness Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah, amir of Bahrain, from Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali on bilateral relations and ways to enhance and bolster them in various fields. Tunisian Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche delivered the message during his talks with his highness the deputy amir of Bahrain in Manama today.

WAKH has learned that the talks, which lasted approximately 2 hours, dealt with current developments in the Arab arena, particularly joint action among the Arab Maghreb states, as well as developments in the Iraq-Iran war and the situation in the Arabian Gulf region. Talks also touched on the situation in the occupied Arab territories in light of the Palestinian popular uprising against the repressive Israeli policy, in addition to cooperation between Bahrain and Tunisia and ways to promote it in the economic and trade fields.

His Highness Shaykh Hamad ibn 'Isa Al Khalifah hosted a luncheon in honor of Hedi Baccouche at noon today. It was attended by ministers, under secretaries, members of the diplomatic corps, and a number of guest.

Holds News Conference

JN212018 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1835 GMT 21 Jan 88

[Text] Manama, 21 Jan (WAKH)—Tunisian Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche has stated that his talks with His Highness Shaykh Hamad ibn 'Isa Al Khalifah, deputy amir of Bahrain, focused on the crucial issues facing the Arab nation, particularly the Palestinian cause and the Iraq-Iran war and their effects on the region. At a news conference here today, the Tunisian prime minister added that he found in his talks with the deputy amir and the senior Bahraini officials a deep understanding of all political issues and causes facing the Arab nation.

Baccouche described relations of cooperation between Tunisia and Bahrain as excellent and distinguished.

Baccouche said his tour is commissioned by Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali to hand the leaders of Gulf states messages on developments in the situation in Tunisia after the 7 November incidents and Tunisia's determination to establish further cooperation with Arab countries. He added that he will acquaint himself with the views of Gulf officials on Arab issues.

Baccouche added that he visits the Gulf states in light of these countries' earnest, firm, and reasonable endeavors to achieve solidarity within the GCC framework. He noted that his visit takes place to renew Tunisia's support and solidarity with Arab countries in light of the existing regional conflict. He said: We are an advocate of peace. We reject the war which threatens regional stability and peace.

Baccouche described the events of 7 November 1987 in Tunisia as "a decisive historic change." He said: After 30 years of independence spent in building a modern state and reviving a new society, we faced a certain degree of inertia that was incompatible with the movement of society. Tunisia's progress was impeded and Tunisia was threatened by internal sedition and external intervention.

Bacccouche said that the presidency of Tunisia had moved to President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali in accordance with the Constitution and the medical report on the former president in order to enable Ben Ali to continue the march begun by Tunisia on a modern basis.

Asked about the restoration of relations with Egypt, Baccouche said: My stop in Cairo en route to the Gulf states has a significance; namely, that we will restore diplomatic relations with Egypt in the next few days. We have firm relations in various fields that have not been severed.

Asked about the possibility of Egypt's return to the Arab League, the Tunisian prime minister said: It was the Arab states that had asked for the transfer of the Arab League to Tunis. It is up to them to decide if they want to move it to Cairo or to any other capital.

Asked about the expected visit of the Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi to Tunisia following the improvement in relations between the two countries, Baccouche said: Several months ago Tunisia and Libya agreed to resolve their differences. Relations developed and agreements on resolving differences were implemented. We restored diplomatic relations with Libya. We await Col al-Qadhdhafi's visit to Tunisia to assess relations between us and among Arab Maghreb countries as a whole. He said Al-Qadhdhafi's visit will take place before the end of January.

Leaves for Oman 22 Jan

JN220754 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0747 GMT 22 Jan 88

[Excerpt] Manama, 22 Jan (WAKH)—Tunisian Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche left Manama for Oman this morning at the end of a 2-day official visit to the State of Bahrain as part of his tour of GCC countries. He was seen off by His Highness Shaykh Hamad ibn 'Isa Al Khalifah, the deputy amir; ministers; and state and military officials. [passage omitted]

Kuwait

Jordanian Envoy Delivers Message to Amir

LD172245 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1442 GMT 17 Jan 88

[Excerpt] Kuwait, 17 Jan (KUNA)—A high-ranking Jordanian envoy, who arrived here earlier today, has conveyed a message to Kuwaiti Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad from Jordanian Monarch King Husayn. The contents of this message, however, have not been disclosed.

The envoy, who is the head of the Jordanian Royal Court, Marwan al-Qasim, has been touring the Gulf countries to deliver similar messages. [passage omitted]

Reportage on Visit by Tunisian Prime Minister

Arrives 19 Jan

LD190924 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0748 GMT 19 Jan 88

[Text] Kuwait, 19 Jan (KUNA)—Tunisian Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche arrived this morning in Kuwait at 0930 from Jeddah on an official visit to Kuwait. He was welcomed on arrival at Kuwait International Airport by heir apparent and Prime Minister Shaykh Sa'd al-Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah; Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; and a number of Kuwaiti ministers and officials.

The Tunisian prime minister is accompanied by an official delegation including Mohamed Ghannouchi, minister attached to the prime minister's office for planning; Tunisian Mufti Shaykh Mokhtar Sellami; a number of high-ranking officials in the Tunisian Government; and a press and information delegation.

Received by Amir

LD191019 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0952 GMT 19 Jan 88

[Text] Kuwait, 19 Jan [KUNA]—The amir of Kuwait, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, received before noon here today Tunisian Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche and the delegation accompanying him. Mr Hedi Baccouche gave Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah a message, the contents of which were not revealed, from Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali.

The Tunisian prime minister held official talks with Kuwaiti heir apparent and prime minister, Shaykh Sa'd al-Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, in the presence of Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and a number of high-ranking officials of both sides.

Mr Baccouche arrived in Kuwait this morning on a 24-hour visit as part of a tour of a number of Arab countries.

Holds News Conference

LD192258 Kuwait KUNA in English 1817 GMT 19 Jan 88

[Text] Kuwait, Jan 19 (KUNA)—Tunisian Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche Tuesday urged all Arabs to back the Palestinian anti-occupation uprising which he said "opened new horizons for the Arab nation." Baccouche, addressing a press conference, said his country was working to see to it that the uprising remains as a pure act of resistance to the occupation without being marred by political exploitation.

The Tunisian premier who arrived here this morning on a 24-hour visit said his country will very shortly resume diplomatic ties with Egypt to end a rupture which dates back to 1979. He said he told his Egyptian counterpart 'Atif Sidqi with whom he met last night at Cairo Airport that arrangements for the move will be made public soon.

Asked on his encounter earlier today with his highness the amir of Kuwait, Baccouche said he was highly impressed by his highness' "in-depth analysis and his Arab nationalist spirit which manifested itself in several of his attitudes and instructions for the sake of (inter-Arab) cooperation."

He also heaped praise on His Highness Crown Prince and Prime Minister Shaykh Sa'd al-Abdallah with whom he also conferred Tuesday. Baccouche spoke of Shaykh Sa'd's "profound judgment, accurate analysis and his Arab personality."

Baccouche sounded his country's all-out support for Kuwait against any infringement on its sovereignty, security and independence. He, meanwhile, deplored that Kuwait "known for its moderation, balanced and peace-seeking policy," was made the first to suffer from the repercussions of the Iran-Iraq war. Kuwait and Tunisia, he went on, are like-minded on Arab issues and share the same aspiration for unity of the Arab world.

On his visit here which will be followed by trips to other Arab countries, Baccouche said it was in intended to acquaint Arab leaders with the policies of the new Tunisian political leadership which took over last November. "It is also an opportunity to consult with our brothers at a time when the Arab nation is passing through a critical phase of its history, be it regarding the Iraq-Iran war which threatens the Arab world, the situation in the Arab Maghreb, or the popular uprising sweeping the (Israeli) occupied territories," he said.

He added that contacts between Kuwait and Tunis will proliferate at more levels than one in the near future and emphasized that his current visit strengthened cooperation between the two sides.

Outlining the thinking of the new Tunisian leadership under President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, Baccouche said Tunis will stick to its Arab and Islamic identity "with no reservations or embarrassment." He asserted that it was Islam, in Tunis and other Arab Maghreb countries, which spurred the Tunisians to fight for their freedom from the French occupation.

He said he was [words indistinct] the president to relay messages to Arab Gulf leaders explaining Tunisia's policies and the recent developments in the country.

Shifting back to the Palestinian uprising in the Israeli-occupied territories Baccouche described it as "the moment we have been waiting for... and which opened new large horizons for the Arab nation and is a strong expression of the right of the Palestinian people." He further emphasized that the uprising "turned a new page in the fateful conflict between us and Israel and its allies."

Asked on Arab Maghreb politics, the Tunisian prime minister denied suggestions that there were axes in the region against Morocco and said Tunis firmly believes in pan-Arab unity and that the unity of the Arab Maghreb was a step in that direction. He said his country maintaining strong ties with both Algeria and Morocco and noted that Moroccan prime minister will visit Tunis late this month for "consultations."

Baccouche made it clear that his country's first priority is development and that it has no eye on a leading political role in the region.

He strongly denied that Tunis had prior knowledge of the Israeli air raid which demolished the PLO headquarters in Tunis three years ago. Tunisia, he stressed, was taken unawares by the raid as were several states including Arab countries.

Asked on the Gulf war, he said Tunis was trying to make all Arabs close ranks for confronting this war and prevent anybody from exploiting it.

On Syria's attitude toward the war, Baccouche said it was a positive development that Damascus declared its objection to the occupation (by Iran) of Arab territories. The Gulf war is hurting all Arabs and Muslims as well as Iran itself, he added.

On internal politics, Tunisian prime minister said the ruling Al-Destour Party was discussing revision of the constitution with the three other political parties. One of the country's political taboos is the inception of a party with foreign financing or, for example, that a group should name itself the Arab party which, he said, would suggest that the rest of Tunisians are not Arab.

He said the country was heading for national reconciliation between all political groups and noted that several Islamic extremists who had been sentenced to death for anti-government activities were later pardoned.

Velayati Message Handed to Foreign Minister

LD201518 Tehran IRNA in English 1505 GMT 20 Jan 88

[Text] Kuwait, Jan. 20, IRNA—Iranian Charge d'Affaires to Kuwait Mohammad Hoseyn Forughi called on Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah here Wednesday to hand him a message from his Iranian counterpart 'Ali Akbar Velayati.

In the meeting, the two discussed the Palestinian Muslims' uprising against the Zionists and the need for Muslim countries to be more active in condemning the Jerusalem occupying regime. Forughi also announced the Islamic Republic's preparedness to put all its resources at the disposal of Palestinian Muslims in order to vindicate their denied rights.

Foreign Minister Ahmad al-Sabah who is also Kuwait's deputy premier said that he had already informed his government of the Islamic Republic's support for Palestinian Muslims' anti-Zionist uprising.

Oman

Tunisia's Baccouche Arrives on 2-Day Visit

JN221418 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 22 Jan 88

[Excerpt] Tunisian Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche arrived in Oman today on a 2-day official visit to the Sultanate of Oman. He was accorded an official welcome. He was received by Qays 'Abd al-Mun'im al-Zawawi, deputy prime minister for financial and economic affairs. [Passage omitted]

PDRY

'No Mediation' With 'Ali Nasir Muhammad

EA201552 Aden ANA in Arabic 1344 GMT 20 Jan 88

[Excerpts] Aden, 20 Jan—Comrade Sa'id Salih, member of the Political Bureau and minister of state security, has appealed to Yemeni citizens living abroad to contribute to nation-building by investing their assets in the development and construction of the homeland. He stressed the YSP's concern for them.

In an interview with the magazine BINA AL-WATAN, he touched on rumors of alleged mediation and reconciliation with the conspirators. He stressed that there is no mediation between our regime and the convicted criminal, 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, and his group, who were tried for crimes against the party, the homeland, and the people.

However, he said efforts are being made to bring back misguided people involved in the 13 January [1986] events who are covered by the general amnesty. [passage omitted]

Comrade Sa'id Salih also spoke about the unity of the YSP in terms of organization, politics, and ideology. He spoke of commitment to its principles, the most important of which are the principles of democratic centralism, collective leadership, criticism, and self-criticism. He said party activities are directed by integrated groups and not by individuals. He mentioned the role of the masses and their support for the political and ideological options of our party. This will lead to more and more cohesiveness, he said. [passage omitted]

YSP Leader Leaves on 'Special Visit' to USSR

EA212129 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 21 Jan 88

[Text] Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, this evening left Aden for Moscow on a special visit to the USSR.

He was seen off at the airport by Brothers Salim Salih Muhammad, assistant secretary general and secretary of the Central Committee; Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas, member of the Political Bureau and chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council; Dr Yasin Sa'id Nu'man, member of the Political Bureau and chairman of the Council of Ministers; a number of members of the Political Bureau, Central Committee, and Presidium; ministers; and the USSR ambassador in Aden.

Qatar

Amir Receives Jordanian Envoy, Message

JN171241 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1210 GMT 17 Jan 88

[TExt] Doha, 17 Jan (WAKH)—Qatari Amir Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani has received a written message from King Husayn of Jordan. The message was delivered by Marwan al-Qasim, chief of the Royal Hashemite Court, when the Qatari amir received him here this morning. QNA says the message deals with the current Arab situation, developments in the region, and bilateral relations.

Reportage on Visit of Tunisian Prime Minister

Arrives 20 Jan

LD201026 Kuwait KUNA in English 0952 GMT 20 Jan 88

[Excerpt] Doha, Jan 20 (KUNA)—Tunisian Premier Hedi Baccouche arrived here Wednesday on a two-day visit to Qatar in the course of his current tour in the region. Baccouche was received on arrival by Minister of Finance and Oil Shaykh 'Abd al-'Aziz ibn Khalifah Al Thani and other top Qatari officials.

The Tunisian premier is accompanied by a delegation that groups the minister of planning and other ranking officials.

He left Kuwait this morning after a two-day visit in which he held talks with His Highness the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah and other senior officials. Baccouche was seen off at the airport in Kuwait by Shaykh Sa'd. [passage omitted]

Received by Amir

JN201711 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1310 GMT 20 Jan 88

[Text] Doha, 20 Jan (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani, amir of Qatar, has received a message from Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali. The message concerns the recent events in Tunisia and its political orientations after the recent constitutional changes, in addition to bilateral relations.

The message was conveyed by Tunisian Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche when he was received by the amir of Qatar here today. The meeting was attended by Shaykh 'Abd al-'Aziz ibn Khalifah Al Thani, minister of finance and petroleum, and 'Ali ibn Ahmad al-Ansari, minister of labor and social affairs.

During the meeting they reviewed the situation in the Arab arena and the developments of the Palestinian question in light of the Palestinian citizens' brave uprising in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. They also discussed the most appropriate means to support the steadfastness of this uprising and to establish the Palestinian people's legitimate rights.

Talks also dealt with efforts to reach a formula for cooperation and coordination among Arab Maghreb countries. The two sides exchanged viewpoints on a number of Arab and international issues of mutual interest, as well as the current regional situation.

Holds News Conference

JN210748 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0520 GMT 21 Jan 88

[Text] Doha, 20 Jan (WAKH)—Tunisian Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche has stated that Tunisian-Egyptian relations will resume as soon as possible, in fact, in the next few days.

In a press conferece here tonight, the Tunisian prime minister greeted the Palestinian people's uprising in occupied Palestine. He said: We attach great importance to this blessed uprising and Tunisia, along with the fraternal Arab countries, will support this uprising and define ways and means to extend this support through the Arab League Council meeting scheduled for next Saturday and also through contacts with Palestinians.

The Tunisian prime minister said there is Libyan readiness to enable Tunisians to work in Libya in accordance with clear and fixed bases and standards securing the Tunisian workers' rights, particularly following the resumption of Tunisian-Libyan relations and the reopening of the border between the two countries. He added that the Libyan president will visit Tunisia in the next few weeks to discuss with Tunisian officials ways to enhance bilateral relations as well as those among Arab Maghreb states.

Baccouche said Tunisia is currently experiencing comprehensive development in accordance with specific plans and programs as well as reform measures in coordination with international financial organizations. He lauded the restoration of confidence by investors, the entrenchment of social security, and the steps taken toward economic reform and to improve the economic situation. He said these matters became evident following the 7 Novemebr incidents.

He pointed out that Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali has received an invitation from King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques and monarch of Saudi Arabia, to visit Saudi Arabia and that the date for this visit will be set later.

United Arab Emirates

Reportage on Visit by Jordan's Al-Qasim

Arrives With Husayn Message

JN180732 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0600 GMT 18 Jan 88

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 17 Jan (WAKH)—Marwan al-Qasim, chief of the Royal Jordanian Court, arrived in Abu Dhabi tonight on a visit to the UAE within a tour of a number of regional states. The Jordanian envoy is bringing a message to His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan, president of the UAE, from Jordanian monarch His Majesty King Husayn on bilateral relations and issues of common interest.

Al-Qasim was received upon arrival by 'Ali al-Sharfa, chief of the UAE presidential court.

Received by President

JN191205 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 0930 GMT 19 Jan 88

[Text] His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan, the president of the state, has received a message from King Husayn ibn Talal of fraternal Jordan dealing with the current Arab situation, the situation in the Gulf, and a number of issues of mutual concern.

The message was delivered by Marwan al-Qasim, chief of the Royal Jordanian Court during his meeting with his highness the president today. The meeting was attended by Shaykh Sultan ibn Zayid and Shaykh Muhammad ibn Bitti Al Hamid, representative of the ruler in the western region and head of the Municipal and Public Works Departments.

Al-Qasim left the country before noon today on his way to Amman after a 2-day visit.

Leaves Abu Dhabi 19 Jan

JN191638 Manama WAKH in English 1540 GMT 19 Jan 88

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Jan 19 (GNA)—Head of the Jordanian Royal Court Marwan al-Qasim left here today for home after a two-day visit to the United Arab Emirates. Al-Qasim delivered a message to UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan from King Husayn of Jordan. The visit of Al-Qasim to the UAE comes within a tour for a number of states in the region.

Zayid Leaves for Pakistan on 'Private' Visit

JN211343 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 0930 GMT 21 Jan 88

[Text] His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the country, left for Karachi today on a private visit to Pakistan. He was seen off by the Supreme Council members, the rulers of the emirates; His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Zayid, heir apparent and deputy supreme commander of the Armed Forces; His Highness Shaykh Hamdan ibn Muhammad, deputy prime minister; and a number of shaykhs, ministers, and senior civilian and military officials.

Yemen Arab Republic

Netherlands Foreign Minister Visits Sanaa

Arrives 20 Jan

JN201903 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 20 Jan 88

[Text] Netherlands Foreign Minister Hans van den Broek arrived in Sanaa this afternoon on a 3-day visit to our country. The Netherlands minister will hold talks with brother officials at the Foreign Ministry.

In a statement to SABA', the Netherlands minister expressed pleasure at visiting our country. He said: The visit will contribute to strengthening old and good relations between the two countries. He noted his talks with the deputy prime minister and foreign minister will deal with bilateral relations in addition to regional and international issues of common concern.

The Netherlands foreign minister was received upon arrival by Brother Dr 'Abd al-Karim al-'Iryani, deputy prime minister, foreign minister, and member of the Standing Committee; the chief of protocol of the Foreign Ministry; a number of Foreign Ministry offiicals; and the Netherlands ambassador in Sanaa.

Received by Salih

JN211348 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 21 Jan 88

[Text] Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, received in his office today Netherlands Foreign Minister Hans van den Broek, who is currently visiting our country. During the meeting, talks dealt with bilateral relations and ways to boost and promote them. They also discussed recent developments in the Arab and international arenas as well as issues of common interest.

The president praised the Netherlands' contributions supporting development projects in our country.

The Netherlands minister expressed extreme happiness at meeting with the president, to whom he conveyed the greetings of Queen Beatrix II of the Netherlands and the Netherlands prime minister. He affirmed the Netherlands Government's readiness to contribute toward supporting a number of development projects in our country.

The president asked him to convey his greetings to the Netherlands queen and prime minister as well his wishes of continued progress and prosperity to the Netherlands people.

The meeting was attended by Brother Dr 'Abd al-Karim al-'Iryani, deputy prime minister, foreign minister, and Standing Committee member; the members of the delegation accompanying the Netherlands minister; and the Netherlands ambassador in Sanaa.

Meets With Prime Minister

JN211350 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 21 Jan 88

[Text] Brother 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani, prime minister and Standing Committee member, received Netherlands Foreign Minister Hans van den Broek this morning. The two officials discussed bilateral relations and ways to bolster them. The meeting was attended by Brother Dr 'Abd al-Karim al-'Iryani, deputy prime minister, foreign minister, and Standing Committee member, and the Netherlands ambassador in Sanaa.

'Official' Talks Held

JN211403 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 21 Jan 88

[Text] An official round of talks was held at the Prime Ministry building today between our country and the Kingdom of the Netherlands. The Yemeni side was chaired by Brother Dr 'Abd al-Karim al-'Iryani, deputy prime minister, foreign minister, and Standing Committee member. The Netherlands side was chaired by Foreign Minister Hans van den Broek.

At the beginning of the session, Brother Dr 'Abd al-Karim al-'Iryani welcomed the Netherlands minister and his delegation. He praised the relations between our country and the Kingdom of the Netherlands in all fields.

Hans van den Broek referred to his country's interest in our country's developments in all fields. He expressed his country's readiness to continue to bolster bilateral relations.

Afterwards, the two officials reviewed bilateral relations in the various spheres of cooperation and prospects for promoting them. They also reviewed Middle East issues and the Palestinian Arab people's uprising in the occupied Arab territories. The two sides' viewpoints regarding the convocation of an international conference for

establishing peace in the Middle East were identical. They also reviewed the latest developments of the Iraq-Iran war. The two sides affirmed the importance of implementing UN Security Council Resolution No 598 regarding the war in the Gulf. The two sides highly praised Iraq's stand on all peaceful solutions to halt the war.

The round of talks was attended on the Yemeni side by Brothers Marwan Nu'man, director of Al-'Iryani's office; Yahya Ahmad al-Wazir, deputy director of the General Department for International Affairs; Ibrahim al-Hayfi, head of the West Europe Department of the Foreign Ministry; Ahmad Kalaz, a member of our diplomatic mission at the Hague; and a number of Foreign Ministry officials.

It was attended on the Netherlands side by (H. E. Fitzburg), roving ambassador; (Iro Real), director of the Africa and Middle East Directorate of the Netherlands Foreign Ministry; (Fan Wam), deputy director of the Africa and Middle East Directorate; (Branger), head of the West and South Asia Department of the Netherlands Technical Cooperation Directorate; and (Johan Van Berk), the Netherlands ambassador in Sanaa.

Meets Development Minister

JN211904 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic
1700 GMT 21 Jan 88

[Text] Brother Dr Muhammad Sa'id al-'Attar, deputy prime minister, development minister, head of the Central Organ for Planning, and Standing Committee member, received Netherlands Foreign Minister Hans van den Broek and his delegation today. They discussed bilateral relations in various fields and ways to bolster and promote them to serve both countries' interests.

The meeting was attended by Brothers Muhsin 'Ali al-Hamadhani, under secretary of the Central Organ for Planning; and Yahya Ahmad al-Wazir, deputy director general of the General Department for International Affairs of the Foreign Ministry; as well as the Netherlands ambassador in Sanaa.

PLO's 'Arafat, Al-'Iryani Discuss 'Uprising'

JN211914 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic
1600 GMT 21 Jan 88

[Text] Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], PLO Executive Committee chairman and commander in chief of the Palestinian Revolution Forces, met with Brother Dr 'Abd al-Karim al-'Iryani, YAR deputy prime minister and foreign minister, at noon today.

The two sides discussed the necessary Arab efforts to bolster the blessed uprising of our Palestinian people in occupied Palestine and the importance of perpetuating this uprising. The two sides also discussed Arab moves, including the Arab foreign ministers meeting in Tunis on 23 January. They also reviewed Arab, international, and UN political moves, particularly after the UN secretary general had submitted his report on the state of affairs of our Palestinian people under occupation and the possibility of referring the issue to the International Court of Justice in The Hague.

The two sides also discussed the importance of Arab and international efforts to convene an international conference to achieve a just solution reaffirming the Palestinian people's national rights, including their right to repatriation, self-determination, and the establishment of an independent state.

Brother Abu 'Ammar reiterated thanks to our people in the northern part of Yemen. He also thanked the YAR command under Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih for the Yemeni people's support for the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories. He gave especial thanks for statements by the brother YAR president yesterday to the effect that the YAR is ready to put all its resources in the service of the Palestinian people's just cause.

No Request To Extradite 'Ali Nasir Received

JN211650 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic
20 Jan 88 pp 1, 19

[Excerpt] Sanaa—The YAR has announced that it did not receive any official request from the PDRY Government to extradite former President 'Ali Nasir Muhammad and his supporters who were convicted in absentia. Dr 'Abd al- Karim al-'Iryani, YAR deputy prime minister and foreign minister, told AL-ITTIHAD yesterday:

I heard the PDRY Supreme People's Council decision to this effect on the radio. We received nothing official.

Answering a question on his country's stand on the decision, he said: No comment now. We will deal with the issue when it arises.

In a statement to AL-ITTIHAD, former PDRY President 'Ali Nasir Muhammad said: We will return to the homeland willingly and by our own decision, not at anyone's summons or request. The Yemeni people will then become the judge and the arbitrator. [passage omitted]

Husayn Presides Over Joint RCC-Party Meeting

JN211705 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1658 GMT 21 Jan 88

[Text] Baghdad, 21 Jan (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has presided over a joint meeting of the RCC and the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party Regional Command. RCC Vice Chairman 'Izzat Ibrahim reviewed the results of his visits to Kuwait and Saudi Arabia. The conferees also discussed the Arab and international political situation.

Reportage on Gulf War Combat Activities

Communique No 2,994

JN211737 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 21 Jan 88

[Communique No 2,994 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 21 January]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our victorious Armed Forces affirm through their heroic activities Iraq's capability and loftiness and its victorious sons' courage. The results of our units' activities for last night and today are as follows:

1. The brave helicopter gunship knights today flew 116 combat sorties over enemy units, weapon emplacements, and equipment. They inflicted new losses on the enemy. Our knights then returned safely to base, praise be to God.

2. In the I Army Corps northern sector, three infantry positions were destroyed and their occupants were killed or wounded.

3. One of our units in the Special I Army Corps sector—the Allahu Akbar Forces—spotted an enemy group estimated at 15 personnel. They were attacked and six of them were killed. The rest escaped.

4. In the II Army Corps central sector, five enemy scoundrels were killed, one observation post was destroyed, and one ammunition dump was blown up.

5. In the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah, five enemy personnel were killed and two infantry positions and one machine gun emplacement were destroyed.

6. In the IV Army Corps sector east of Maysan, three enemy personnel were killed.

7. In the VII Army Corps sector, one ammunition dump was blown up and one infantry position and one machine gun were destroyed.

8. A number of Iranian soldiers sought refuge with our forward units. They were evacuated safely to the rear.

9. Today the criminal enemy shelled Qal'at Dizah village and the Bimalik housing complex with long-range artillery. A number of civilian houses and property were damaged in the enemy shelling.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 21 January 1988

3 Gunboats, 1 Raft Sunk

JN211923 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1908 GMT 21 Jan 88

[Statement by a military spokesman dated 21 January]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Praise be to God. The victories of our brave fighters have continued against the Khomeyniite clique, which insists on war and aggression and rejects peace calls.

Today, our naval force spotted three enemy gunboats and a raft trying to approach the loading platform at Al-'Amiq Port. The brave helicopter knights raided the enemy boats and raft and destroyed them, sinking them along with their scoundrels. Our knights then returned safely to base in God's care. Blessed be the brave men and praise be to God for His victory.

[Dated] 21 January 1988

'Large Maritime Target' Hit

JN220853 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0840 GMT 22 Jan 88

[Statement by a military spokesman dated 22 January]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. In implementation of our firm and legitimate right to sever the oil supplies of the regime of the ignorant and backward Tehran rulers and to deprive them their resources for their treacherous designs of aggression, our brave Air Force flew a successful raid against a large maritime target off the Iranian coast at 0500 [0200 GMT] today.

After scoring an accurate and effective hit against the maritime target, our valiant hawks safely returned with their aircraft to base under God's protection.

[Dated] 22 January 1988

Dialogue With Iran Called 'Anachronistic'

JN221036 Baghdad Voice of the National Alliance for the Liberation of Syria in Arabic 1930 GMT 21 Jan 88

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Dear listeners, we do not think Iraq wants the war to expand. None of us wants the war at all. However, we will never allow the Arab-Persian war to continue only between Iraq and Iran. Either it ends once and for all or the entire Arab people from the Atlantic Ocean to the Arabian Gulf will resist it.

Dialogue with Iran is now anachronistic; it has transcended its time. This dialogue should not continue. If Iran wants peace, then all of the Arabs want peace, provided it is not coupled with capitulation. Therefore, this war must first stop between Iraq and Iran because we consider the approval of any Arab side toward continuing the war and confining it only to Iraq and Iran to be a kind of capitulation.

We will not allow anyone, regardless of how devious he is, to force the Arabs to be spectators while Iraq is fighting on our behalf. Iraq has been steadfastly defending the entire Arab territory and nation for more than 7 years. It is time we stood by Iraq and contributed to protecting the Arab nation from the Persian danger.

Iraqi interests are Arab interests and any aggression against Iraqi interests and establishments is an aggression against the interests of all the Arab states. If Iran's missiles fall on certain Iraqi spots, we regard them as falling on Saudi, Kuwaiti, Bahraini, or Arab spots both in the Arabian Gulf and elsewhere.

We are grateful for those who say they care about our interests, but they should realize that Iraq's interests lead our own interests and vice versa. We cannot sever Iraq from the Arab body to feed Khomeyniite devils, henchmen, and those who collaborate with them.

Any effort to protect the GCC states should also be exerted to protect Iraq. We do not think the GCC was created to isolate Iraq from the Gulf states or from other Arab states.

We would like to remind everyone that the GCC was established as part of the project of Arab unity, for whose realization everybody is working. The GCC very much wants Iraq to be healthy and to have its place among the GCC states and the Arab countries.

We have repeatedly told everybody and especially those who want to protect the interests of the GCC states that these interests cannot be protected in isolation from Iraqi interests, that the war with Iraq means war with the GCC states, that Iraq has an Arab position both in the Gulf and the Arab homeland, and that any right-thinking man cannot consider removing it from this position.

No efforts can contribute toward ending the Arab-Persian war unless they are sound, farsighted, and comprehensive. Moreover, the Arabs in the region are not so naive as to believe that leaving Iraq to fight it alone with the Iranian tyrants will be acceptable to the Arabs. Even regional peace cannot be ensured if Iraq is not safe, proud, and victorious.

Mubarak Initiative Receives Divided Response

TA221132 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 22 Jan 88

[Text] In reaction to the reports published in THE WASHINGTON POST on President Mubarak's new initiative, the Prime Minister's Office said that the details of the plan are still unknown, but it appears to contain no new elements. Our political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami was told that these are well known positions which Mubarak has already expressed in the past.

The Foreign Ministry's reaction was that every call for the restoration of calm in the territories and for advancing the political process in the region should be welcomed.

Egypt's Ghali Rejects LP Convention Invitation

TA201056 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0830 GMT 20 Jan 88

[Text] Egyptian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Butrus Ghali has turned down requests from senior Labor Party [LP] personages to attend the LP's assembly today in preparation for the elections. The office of Foreign Minister Peres explains that Ghali's refusal stemmed from logistic rather than political reasons. The LP convention will be held at the Fair Grounds in Tel Aviv this afternoon, but Butrus Ghali will not be in attendance. This is reported by our correspondent Dov Gilhar.

Soviet, Egyptian Political Initiatives Linked

TA221226 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 22 Jan 88 pp A1, 2

[Report by Ilan Bakhar, Ran Dagoni, Shefi Gabay, and 'Ofra Yeshu'a-Lyth]

[Excerpt] Political sources in Jerusalem and in the West believe that the new initiative launched by Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze, who has called for a convention of the foreign ministers of the permanent members of the Security Council, has been coordinated with Egypt and is connected with the new Egyptian political initiative announced by President Husni Mubarak.

Sources in the Prime Minister's Office have categorically rejected the Soviet initiative, saying that this is another Soviet attempt to participate in the peace process without establishing diplomatic relations with Israel. Jerusalem believes that the United States will also reject the Soviet initiative. [passage omitted]

Novik on Helsinki Talks With Soviet Official

TA212108 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 21 Jan 88

[Text] The background to the USSR's decision to accept an Israeli diplomatic delegation lies in Moscow's desire to share a very dynamic role in furthering the political process in the Middle East. This is the view of Dr Nimrod Novik, the foreign minister's political adviser, on his return from a meeting in Helsinki with (Vladimir Terasov), the Middle East expert in the Soviet Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Our political correspondent Yig'al Goren interviewed Dr Novik today:

[Begin recording] [Novik] This is yet another step, a signal, of an improvement in relations. But what is most important, perhaps, is the timing. In the conversation, (Terasov) did not hide the fact that the timing of the meeting and the announcement—in view of the latest events, the reactions in the Arab world in particular and in the world in general—is certainly aimed at sharpening its main message, which is that the USSR feels an urgency to further the political process in the region.

[Goren] Does your meeting and the Soviet decision to permit an Israeli diplomatic delegation to come to Moscow indicate that relations with the Soviet Union will be renewed soon?

[Novik] We are sure the Soviets made a grave mistake when they severed relations in 1967. They know that each passing day only worsens that mistake because they are now not in the picture. They have the information but not the feel for what is really happening. Therefore, many of the moves that took place in the last 20 years—in the direction of peace, in the direction of a settlement—occurred without them. For 20 years they have been claiming that they will renew relations only after an overall settlement is reached in the Middle East. This attitude has changed over the past 2 or 3 years, and their position now is that a renewal of relations will occur simultaneously with an advance in the political process.

The timing of such a move is of course their decision. They know our position, that since they cut off the relations it is up to them to renew them, and the sooner the better.

[Goren] Did the Soviet representative ask to hide the fact of your meetings?

[Novik] No, on the contrary. He reiterated what was said in the previous meeting in Bonn. He said that the meetings were part of a round of talks with the parties to the dispute, that Israel is a central party to the dispute, and that they certainly view the meeting as a preliminary stage in developing a Soviet position, a Soviet concept, and advancement toward a settlement.

[Goren] Did you decide on further meetings, or further steps?

[Novik] We decided in principle on an additional meeting, and more or less on an agenda. [end recording]

Interests Office Exchange With USSR Expected

TA211221 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 21 Jan 88 p 1

[Report by Ilan Kfir]

[Text] The next stage in Israeli-Soviet relations will include the establishment of interests offices in Tel Aviv and Moscow. This assessment was made yesterday by a senior Foreign Ministry official. According to this assessment, the Soviet consular delegation in Israel, which operates under the auspices of the Finnish Embassy, will become a permanent delegation; the same will apply to the Israeli delegation in Moscow which will operate under the auspices of the Netherlands Embassy.

Foreign Ministry officials believe that the Israeli delegation will leave for the Soviet Union within several weeks. Although the composition of the delegation has not yet been officially discussed, it may include three or four diplomats. Foreign Ministry Equipment and Properties Division officials Yo'el Gilat and Victor Har'el are two of the candidates for Moscow.

Shamir Wants Delegation To Work With Soviets

TA211839 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 21 Jan 88

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir says he would like to see the projected Israeli consular delegation in Moscow work among Jews there, to strengthen their Jewishness and links with the State of Israel. At a meeting today with newly arrived former prisoner of Zion Yosef Begun, Shamir also said that Begun's arrival in Israel was an encouraging sign, but the situation of Soviet Jewry nevertheless remains worrying.

Commentary Examines Prospects for Soviet Ties

TA211635 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 21 Jan 88 p 4

[Victor Louis commentary from Moscow: "The Situation in the Territories Is Halting the Soviet Union's Inclination To Maintain Direct Links to Israel"]

[Text] The Soviet Union is a country that advocates the use of an unequivocal language. When "cosmopolitans" were discussed there, it was obvious to the public that the expression alluded mainly to Jews.

Nowadays voices are heard against the activity of the Freemasons, and it is again clear that the primary intention is to blame the Jews. Also, the "era of volunteerism" is Khrushchev's regime, while "the era of stagnation" is Brezhnev's. All these are such unequivocal expressions that anyone who is familiar with them is astonished at those who find them incomprehensible. The situation is somewhat similar to the use of understatement in English, which can dumbfound other nationals no matter how good their command of the language is.

The arrival of the Soviet consular delegation in Israel is clearly a step toward a better understanding between the two countries and a return to normal communication between them, although on a limited scale. This is the result of unofficial meetings, followed by official ones, between representatives of the two sides. The official purpose of the Israeli diplomatic delegation's planned visit, given as the need to look into the operation of the Israeli interests section in the Netherlands Embassy in the Soviet Union, is merely to see to technical matters.

At a news conference, Arab correspondents bombarded Ministry of Foreign Affairs spokesman Gennadiy Gerasimov with questions concerning the situation in the territories. They were promised a certain clarification at a later stage, yet all that has appeared so far are press agency reports in PRAVDA on the situation in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. These reports read like stories written by war correspondents. Soviet media are giving extensive coverage to the wave of demonstrations in Israel, and the British ministers' reactions were more extensively reported in the Soviet Union than in Britain.

The unrest in Israel has somewhat halted the Soviet Union's inclination to maintain more direct contacts and to implement a policy of open dialogue. What is taking place now in relations between the two countries, however, is the usual scenario, customary before the establishment of diplomatic relations. The scenario usually includes an exchange of journalists, trade delegates, and artists. These tend to be followed by family visits, exchanges of delegations, and so forth.

Nobody can expect the Israeli delegation to be received by the Jews with the same degree of enthusiasm that accompanied the arrival of Golda Meir as the Israeli ambassador to Moscow. The Jews' exultation at the sight of an Israeli ambassador was so great that they actually carried her on their shoulders. Some of them even kissed the hem of her skirt.

Israel's interests section in the Netherlands Embassy is in the center of Moscow. If you wish to enter, you may find yourself frisked by a militiaman who will want to see your papers and will inquire as to the purpose of your visit. When you are allowed through the gate, you will find a side door leading to the second floor, where you will be met by one of the sharp-tongued ladies of the office who are tired of hearing the endless questions. Their window is installed in a wooden partition and is usually closed. In this unfriendly atmosphere the petitioners are obligated to wait—sometimes for hours—for an interview with the Netherlands official, and it seems that most questions have to be transferred to Israel for clarification.

It is almost certain that the delegation will find a similar situation as it walks into that office. The delegation members, however, having received Soviet visas for the duration of their stay, will run into no other restrictions, just like other foreign delegates who enjoy diplomatic immunity. Were a certain potential member of the delegation deemed persona non grata by Moscow, the authorities would have avoided issuing him an entrance visa in the first place, and Israel would have been requested to replace him with someone else.

There are also several refuseniks who claim to be Israeli citizens, but this status has never been recognized by the Soviet Government. It is necessary to wait and see how to solve their problem.

Past experience has shown that when authorized Israeli attorneys visited the Soviet Union, they assisted in solving a variety of legal problems connected to inheritances with a minimum of red tape. The arrival of the Israeli officials will no doubt help solve all sorts of secondary problems, and there is no reason why this should vex the Soviet Union's Arab friends. The Soviet Union hosts a diplomatic representative of the PLO who enjoys every diplomatic privilege in the book, but the secretaries working with him are regarded as mere assistants and have not been granted any of the customary diplomatic ranks.

Another obstacle may arise before the Israeli consular officials can be granted the appropriate diplomatic status and before any serious discussion of diplomatic relations is possible. There are reports claiming that the PLO is seriously considering the establishment of a government-in-exile. If that happens, the Soviet Union will find it difficult not to grant it recognition first.

'Lack of Enthusiasm' for Soviet UN Initiative

TA220609 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 22 Jan 88 pp 1, 4

[Report by Yo'el Greenberg and Bradley Burston]

[Excerpt] The Soviet Union yesterday called on UN Secretary-General Perez de Cuellar to convene the UN Security Council at the foreign minister level in order to discuss setting up an international conference on the Middle East.

Although the Soviet proposal appeared to be unwelcome at both the Foreign Ministry and the Prime Minister's Office, initial reactions last night indicated that it could potentially spark a heated internal confrontation over the position to be taken by Israel if Perez de Cuellar accepts the proposal and it is brought to the Security Council.

In a letter published yesterday in New York, Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze referred to the "popular uprising" by Palestinians in the occupied territories, and said that there was growing support for the idea of an international conference as the only realistic means of achieving a settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

In Jerusalem, Foreign Ministry officials said that they were "not surprised" by the Soviet move, of which they were apparently notified in general terms in the talks held in Helsinki this week between Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres' policy adviser, Nimrod Novik, and the deputy head of the Soviet Foreign Ministry's Middle East desk, Vladimir Terasov [name as published].

The officials, however, professed a distinct lack of enthusiasm for the initiative, saying that the UN forum has "great disadvantages" because of its low standing in Israeli eyes and because the PLO, in its observer capacity in the UN, is bound to participate in any Security Council debate on the matter.

The officials noted that Shevardnadze's proposal for foreign minister representation at a Council meeting referred to the members of the Council, and not to the parties to the conflict. They said that Israel would not boycott a debate on the international conference.

Sources in the Prime Minister's Office—who were more surprised by the Soviet move than their Foreign Ministry counterparts—said, however, that they had doubts whether Israel should participate at all in a Security Council debate on the international conference. The sources noted that Israel had already accepted resolutions 242 and 338 as the basis for negotiations, and that these did not necessitate an international conference.

The sources said that the Soviets were playing a "sophisticated game," wishing to outflank the U.S. as the chief promoter of the peace process and to isolate it as the lone opponent to a move which is bound to enjoy the support of the 14 other Council members.

A source close to Peres said that "this is definitely not the way to go," adding that Security Council debates are not an alternative to "an international opening which will lead to direct bilateral talks." If the discussion in the UN does go in that direction, said the source, then it could be beneficial. [passage omitted]

Romanian Foreign Minister To Visit as Planned

TA221245 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 22 Jan 88 p 2

[Report by political correspondent Dalya Shehori]

[Text] The Romanian ambassador in Israel notified Yesha'yahu 'Anug, an assistant director general at the Foreign Ministry, 2 days ago that the visit of Romanian

Foreign Minister Ioan Totu scheduled for next Wednesday, would be postponed "because Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres' schedule must be very busy these days." Jerusalem's astonishment at the postponement of the visit under this pretext has apparently caused Romania to revert to its original stand. The Romanian ambassador yesterday announced that Ioan Totu will arrive in Israel next Wednesday for a 2-day visit as planned.

Romania initiated the Totu visit, and the events in the occupied territories must have been the reason behind its attempt to postpone it. In a meeting between the Romanian ambassador and 'Anug, the latter asked with amazement what connection there is between Romania and Shim'on Peres' schedule. This cool reaction, as well as the friendly relations between the two countries, apparently demonstrated to Romania that this visit had best be carried out as planned. Totu will meet with the foreign minister and with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir in the course of his visit.

Goulding Stresses 'Comprehensive Solution'

TA191405 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic 18 Jan 88 p 1

[Report on interview with UN Under Secretary General Marrack Goulding; date and place not given]

[Text] Jerusalem—At the conclusion of his visit to the occupied territories, UN Under Secretary General Marrack Goulding stated that the current events there highlight the need for reaching a comprehensive solution to the Palestinian problem as soon as possible.

In an exclusive interview with an AL-FAJR correspondent, Goulding added that the events highlight the need for achieving a peaceful solution because the Palestinians cannot accept continued occupation, and because Israel cannot live under such circumstances.

Goulding noted that he agrees with British Minister of State for Foreign Affairs David Mellor that the situation in the Palestinian refugee camps, especially in the Gaza Strip, is very bad.

Goulding said that he saw the Israeli forces using tear gas and rubber bullets to disperse demonstrations, and that he had heard a lot about the use of violence against demonstrators. He said that he will convey his views and observations with precision to the UN secretary general.

It is to be noted that Goulding's report about the situation in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip will be released at the United Nations next Friday.

Peres 'Disappointed' With EC Reaction to Unrest

LD211541 Hamburg DPA in German 1429 GMT 21 Jan 88

[Text] Jerusalem, 21 Jan (DPA)—Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres has expressed disappointment with the reaction of friendly Western states at the latest unrest in the Israeli-occupied territories. "Naturally we are disappointed," he said today in a DPA interview in Jerusalem. "The EC should not punish Israel for wanting to put an end to the outbreak of terror and hostility," Peres said. He was alluding to the delay in the ratification by the European Parliament of a negotiated economic agreement with Israel.

Two days before Federal Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher's visit to Israel, Peres warned the Western states against trying to pressure Israel into undertaking political solutions. West Europeans could by all means contribute to a settlement of the Middle East conflict by, for example, urging the Soviet Union to take up relations with Israel, thus setting aside an obstacle in the peace process.

Israel and the Federal Republic "have a good relationship," Peres said. He thought that Bonn could also do more. Genscher was certainly in a position to contribute something to Israeli-Arab relations, the Social-Democrat said. Someone who knew and conveyed all the details and standpoints of both sides could be "very helpful and important... With King Husayn, in particular, we have no direct link." Genscher recently visited Amman, and King Husayn is expected to visit Bonn in February.

By no means all criticism in the world of Israel is antisemitic, but much of the criticism serves only as a "veil for antisemitism," Peres said. He would not mention any names, "but when leading European public figures say that we are behaving like fascists, then I would describe that as unfair and almost antisemitic," the minister said. He was referring to statements to this effect by Greek Prime Minister Andreas Papandreou.

Peres stressed that Israel had ended up in a difficult position in the occupied territories against its will. "People in the world forget that we did not set off (in 1967) to conquer land", but Jordan ignored all warnings and took part in the Egyptians' hostilities. "Since then we have been prepared for negotiations without precondition," and he and his party are ready even for an international Middle East conference. Israel would however never give up annexed East Jerusalem and never return to the borders stipulated by the United Nations in 1947 in its partition plan for Palestine.

Pressure by the West on the Israeli Government would be of no avail, Peres said. However, support for the international conference is useful. Israel's nationalist prime minister Yitzhak Shamir opposes a conference of this type. Peres said that with the present government, "there are very, very few chances of implementing an

international conference." He was setting his hopes on the results of the imminent re-elections, which will take place in November at the latest.

"We have no illusions about the fact that a solution can only be political, not military, but neither do we have any illusions about the fact that we have to safeguard security until a political solution has been achieved—for the sake of Arabs and Jews. Peres defended the use of firearms against violent Palestinians. In most cases Israeli patrols had been attacked with stones and molotov cocktails by numerous demonstrators and "had no choice but to shoot." In the meantime the army had learned a lesson from the incidents and there are now hardly any victims.

Protest Lodged Over Remarks by Papandreou

TA201545 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
1430 GMT 20 Jan 88

[Text] Israel has lodged a protest with the Greek Government over the appearance of Greek Prime Minister Andreas Papandreou in a joint news conference with Yasir 'Arafat in which Papandreou described Israel's presence in the territories as a fascist occupation. Reacting to this, the spokesman of the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem has said that Israel categorically rejects this description, which is totally unfounded and very offensive. The spokesman added that the tense situation in the region calls for the utmost caution; he noted that responsible leaders are expected to abstain from making statements liable to taint the atmosphere.

Canada's Clark Voices 'Deep Concern' on Unrest

TA220533 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 22 Jan 88

[Text] Joseph Clark, the Canadian secretary of state for external affairs, last night summoned Israeli Ambassador in Ottawa Yisra'el Gur-Arye and expressed to him deep concern over the events in the territories. Mr Clark stressed the damage done to Israel following the recent events. This is reported by our correspondent in the United States Shim'on Schiffer.

U.S. Envoy Delivers Shamir Message to Jordan

TA211601 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew
21 Jan 88 pp A1, 2

[Report by Ilan Bakhar and Ran Dagoni]

[Excerpt] Malcolm Hoenlein, director general of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, last week secretly visited Amman and met with senior Jordanian officials, including Minister of Court 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah. Hoenlein, who was accompanied by Max Green, President Reagan's adviser on Jewish affairs, passed on to the Jordanians a verbal message from Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir. Jewish and U.S. sources in Amman, Washington, and New York told MA'ARIV that the contacts took place with the approval and through the mediation of the Reagan Administration, and focused on the issue of the riots in the territories.

A senior political source in Jerusalem said that Hoenlein made clear to his Jordanian interlocutors that if Jordan adopts a more flexible position on the peace process and agrees to hold direct negotiations with Israel, U.S. Jewry would help Jordan as much as possible to obtain U.S. aid. The political source denied that Hoenlein went to Jordan as a secret envoy of the Israeli Government. Senior political sources nevertheless confirmed that Hoenlein held a long series of meetings with ministers and influential senior officials in Jordan, who briefed him on the Jordanian position regarding an international conference.

MA'ARIV learned that immediately after his talks in Jordan, Hoenlein arrived in Israel and met with Yosef Ben-Aharon, director general of the Prime Minister's Office, and briefed him on his talks. Ben-Aharon told MA'ARIV last night that Hoenlein did not go on any Israeli mission, and that he met with the high level officials in Jordan by virtue of his senior position and the esteem in which he is held personally. [passage omitted]

BBC Interviews Peres on Mideast Conference

LD220023 London BBC Television Network in English
2240 GMT 21 Jan 88

[From the "Newsnight" program]

[Text] [Announcer] In an exclusive interview, David Sells has been talking to Shim'on Peres about the prospects for peace and the threats that now exist to Israel's identity as a Jewish state. He began by asking Mr Peres about the recent unrest in the occupied areas which left 39 Palestinians dead and several hundred injured.

[Begin recording] [Peres] Our soldiers were caught in an unprepared situation, in a provocative situation, because would we know ahead of time I think that we would be able to take measures that would save the lives of many people. For example, when you send a single soldier, or two soldiers, in a street and he is being confronted by masses of people he doesn't have anything else but to turn to the arms for self-defense.

[Sells] But does the fact that you didn't know argue a rather important failure of intelligence?

[Peres] No, I don't think so. No intelligence can discover feelings, sentiments, or who knows? Intelligence can really foresee a planned situation and I don't think that this was planned. I don't believe that the PLO was aware about it at all or guided it. They tried to take a ride on it and claimed credit for it. But that's not the case.

[Sells] Mr Peres, you've been trying for a year or two now to get this international conference you favor off the ground. You've told Europe, you've seen Mrs Thatcher, Kohl, Mitterrand. But the biggest problem you seem to have is right here at home.

[Peres] Partly at home, but the main obstacles I would say were two: one is the Russian position, which was reserved, occasionally unfriendly, general ambiguous, and the other was the timidity of the Arabs. The Arab voice was never clear and strong and loud.

[Sells] Is the idea of this conference principally to allow Jordan to take a place at the negotiating table, to give Jordan a protective umbrella?

[Peres] I guess. That's my perception. I mean we don't need it, obviously. For us, on the contrary, it's a burden on the whole. I mean if I have to go to the Israeli people and say, look, there are two proposals, one is to have direct negotiations, and the other is to go to an international conference. Obviously everybody would prefer direct negotiations. The only thing that I can say is well, in order to have direct negotiations we need the Arabs. And we cannot have the Arabs without an international conference.

[Sells] What about the Palestinians? How would they figure in such a meeting?

[Peres] I think that—I hope—that they shall negotiate within a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, a joint delegation, and the Palestinians will represent their view within that delegation.

[Sells] But which Palestinians? Are we talking of Hanna Sinyurah, Fayiz Abu' Rahmah from the West Bank and Gaza, or whom?

[Peres] Authentic Palestinian leaders coming from the West Bank and Gaza. I wouldn't now like to go into names because every name which I shall mention...

[Sells, interrupting] I only say that because Palestinians tells us that you Israeli leaders seek authentic interlocutors in talks, but they have spent recent years in either deposing them or deporting them or squashing them.

[Peres] Well, I wouldn't say so. I mean most of the important leaders are here, and one or two didn't use violence. They remain here.

[Sells] Almost to a man the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza say that the PLO is the authentic voice of the Palestinians. Does that mean the people you talk to at least must be close to the PLO?

[Peres] From 1948 the PLO and its predecessors always believed that with rifle and violence they would win the day and, if this is the case, we're in a poor shape, I admit. But I don't accept that what they told you or anyone else is really their final position.

[Sells] But the major problem—and you can't duck it—is that you have an oddly named government of national unity, in which Mr Shamir, the prime minister, is a formidable opponent of what you propose.

[Peres] Yes, I think that what we shall have to do after the next election is to decide on the policy, not just on the government. It is the policy that will count. Surely I think that it doesn't serve our country to be divided and paralyzed. Yes, we are going in two directions in order to take a decision.

[Sells] Because your own ambassador in London—I was reading today—has complained that two voices are coming from Jerusalem. There is no apparent consensus.

[Peres] Yes, there are two voices in Jerusalem. That's the truth.

[Sells] Are you going to make this for your party, the Labor Alignment, is this going to be a major, or the major election issue.

[Peres] The major election isssue will be the process for peace, the peace momentum. We shall say: Gentlemen, there is no military solution, the only solution is political, and the only political solution is the one that we can structure realistically.

[Sells] Is territorial compromise—which is your party, the Labor Alignment's policy—is that still for you on the cards?

[Peres] Yes, Mr Sells, because I don't think that people should walk all their lives with their eyes set on the ground. It's not territories we're dealing with but people that we're dealing with. I mean it's wrongly called a territorial compromise. We'd rather call it a demographic compromise because we're not dealing with pieces of lands. We are dealing with commmunities of people and this is what makes it so complex and demanding. And if we want to remain as we would like to remain—a Jewish state, and a Jewish state means a state where the Jewish people are a majority, as an arab state is a state where the Arabs are a majority, and if we want to remain democratic, and if we want to remain true to our heritage as a Jewish people may I say the following: The Jewish people, never in their history, were tempted to dominate another people. [sentence as heard] I think it was wise, because all the other people who dominated us disappeared from history. We are still alive and hopeful. [end recording]

IDF Assesses Possibility of War With Syria

TA221616 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 22 Jan 88

[Text] Yosi Peled, the commander of the Northern Command, believes that there is no danger of an initiated war with Syria erupting for 1 or 1 and 1/2 years from now. According to Peled, however, this assessment does not free the IDF from the need to prepare for any eventuality.

In a lecture at the economic club of the industrialists association in Haifa, Major General Peled said that for the long term Syria has not given up the idea of war with Israel. At the same time, he noted that he does not believe that the next war with Syria is unavoidable, provided the IDF proves its determination and ability. Our correspondent Haviva Roger says that on Syria's possible use of chemical weapons against Israel, Maj Gen Peled said the Syrians know that Israel will react to the use of such weapons in a way that will cause them a great deal of damage.

Katyushas Fired From Lebanon Land in Galilee

TA220311 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 22 Jan 88

[Text] Several Katyusha rockets fired from Lebanon landed in the Galilee early this morning, but there were no casualties. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that the rockets were fired from outside the security zone. IDF and South Lebanese Army soldiers are conducting searches in southern Lebanon this morning.

More on Policy, Disturbances in Territories

Fifth Arab To Be Deported

TA211757 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1730 GMT 21 Jan 88

[Excerpt] The fifth candidate for deportation from Judaea and Samaria will be expelled within the next few days, a senior military source said this evening. The deportation can be carried out because the advisory committee to the commander of the Southern Command ratified the deportation order issued by Major General 'Amram Mitzna'. Another reason is that the prospective deportee's attorney announced today that his client is giving up his right to appeal to the High Court of Justice. This means that in the coming days he will be deported. [passage omitted]

Arab Mayors Denounce Incident

TA211231 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 21 Jan 88

[Text] The heads of the Arab municipalities in the Wadi 'Ara region denounced yesterday's incident in which Molotov cocktails were thrown at a bus transporting students. Our correspondent Yo'el Dar reports that the mayor of Umm al-Fahm noted that he and his municipality are against any act which disrupts the public order. The mayor of the 'Ara regional municipality also joined in the denunciation. A manifesto denouncing the act was distributed in the schools in the triangle area.

Mordekhay Eases Gaza Curfews

TA211825 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 21 Jan 88

[Excerpt] Quiet prevailed in the Gaza Strip today. This morning the IDF permitted thousands of laborers from the refugee camps to leave for work in Israel, and extended the relaxation of the curfews. Our correspondent Moti Amir returned from the Gaza Strip:

Major General Yitzhaq Mordekhay, commander of the Southern Command, and senior echelons in the IDF are contemplating easing the curfew conditions for additional inhabitants currently subject to them in the Gaza refugee camps. Quiet prevailed in the area today, and thousands of laborers left for work early this morning, forming long traffic jams on their return this afternoon. The fellahin could be seen tending their fields, and agricultural produce was sold along the highways. Most shops in Gaza towns were open today, but were closely supervised by the IDF soldiers.

At the end of a tour of the Gaza Strip, the defense minister commended the IDF soldiers and their commanders for their efforts to control the situation.

[Begin Rabin recording] Right now, things are calmer; I attribute this to the fine job done by the Southern Command and the personnel placed at its disposal, and the way this was achieved. I believe that the methods employed by the Southern Command, its various branches and units, and the curfews that have been imposed, were the factors leading to this calm. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Mitzna' on E. Jerusalem Curfew

TA211832 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 21 Jan 88

[Text] The head of the Army's Central Command, Major General 'Amram Mitzna', has not signed or received a written request to sign an order that would impose a curfew on East Jerusalem. Reporter Steve Rodan quotes a senior military source as saying that Mitzna' has discussed the possibility of such an emergency regulation with senior police commanders. The possibilities also include shutting down stores that are observing the commercial strike for up to 2 months. Maj Gen Mitzna' is the only one who can sign an emergency order in the Jerusalem area.

Army Explains New Policy

TA211906 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 21 Jan 88

[Text] The Israeli Army tonight explained its new policy of physically restraining demonstrators in Judaea and Samaria. The policy includes beatings, but mostly quelling unrest by physical force instead of just using tear gas or rubber bullets. The new policy was detailed by a senior source in the Army, as Steve Rodan reports:

[Begin recording] Over the past week the Army has changed its policy toward Arab demonstrations in the territories. Until recently the Army would keep its distance from the demonstrators who would throw rocks and bottles at the soldiers. But the new policy orders soldiers to charge into the demonstrators and remove them by force.

A senior military source said the policy is proving effective. In his words, the use of force by soldiers is being allowed because previous tactics simply didn't work well enough. Many of the demonstrators knew of the Army's hesitancy to fire live ammunition, and the use of tear gas was not effective in keeping demonstrators away. The source said as a result many of the soldiers felt they were trying to quell the unrest with their hands tied behind their backs. This, the source said, affected the morale and self-respect of the soldiers. Major General 'Amram Mitzna', the head of Army Central Command, has already explained the new policy to local Palestinians.

The senior source explained it this way: We want the people to be afraid of the Army, we want the residents of the territories to remember this so they won't run wild. The senior source said the new policy does not mean that soldiers can beat people at will. It is a selective policy meant to nip unrest in the bud. The Army is said not to be ecstatic about the policy, and senior officers expect the norms of the Israeli Army soldier to return to what they were previously, when the current unrest subsides. [end recording]

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir says he fully supports the policies being carried out by Defense Minister Rabin. Speaking in the south today, Shamir said the defense minister was acting on policies which were approved by the government. He said the decision to physically confront demonstrators was one of self-defense and was not a violent move.

Sinyurah Censorship Violation

TA212020 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 21 Jan 88

[Text] Charges have been pressed in the Jerusalem Magistrates Court against Hanna Sinyurah, the editor of AL-FAJR, for publishing an interview with Yasir 'Arafat without having submitted it for approval by the military censorship. Sinyurah conducted the interview by telephone from the newspaper's offices in Jerusalem.

4 Curfews To Be Lifted 22 Jan

TA220526 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 22 Jan 88

[Text] Curfews on four of the eight refugee camps in the Gaza Strip are to be completely lifted from this morning. The head of Southern Command, Major General Yitzhaq Mordekhay, says he hopes residents of Rafah, Khan Yunus, Dayr al-Balah, and Al-Shatti' camps will use the opportunity to return to a more normal and quiet life.

According to UNRWA officials, about 150,000 people live in these four camps. Reporter Alan Ben-'Ami asked Gen Mordekhay what had prompted the Army to lift the curfews on the camps today:

[Begin recording] [Mordekhay] We think that those camps now, they are under control, and I hope that they understand the lesson and this is the time that we can open completely those four camps: Rafah camp, Dayr al-Balah camp, Al-Shatti' camp, and Khan Yunus camp. We are going to do it on Friday, especially on Friday, because we know that there are a lot of religious people in the camp and that they would like to go to the West Bank to pray there, and we are going to give them the opportunity to do it free and to do it as they did it before, and nobody will bother them in the area. I hope that the people will respect what we are doing, and nobody of them is going to use the religion for any other subject, only for prayers.

[Ben-'Ami] Friday prayers, however, in various locations—particularly in Jerusalem—have been the day of violence, in many cases. Do you intend to have any sort of military supervision over what's happening? Or will people be free to go to the mosques in the hope that they will pray peacefully?

[Mordekhay] We hope that everything will go, especially today, in the right way. But if something will happen, we'll deploy the units in all the area, and we are ready, immediately, to stop any event that will happen in the area that will be against the law or the situation that is now in the area.

[Ben-'Ami] Up to now, the press have been fairly restricted in gaining access to the camps to find out what's going on. Will they now have free access, freedom of movement, in the four camps where the curfews are being lifted?

[Mordekhay] Yes, of course. From this morning, all the press and all the others who would like to go in those camps and to make sure that there are free people there and they have enough food and they can go everywhere that they want. [end recording]

AL-QUDS Banned for 45 Days

TA220529 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 22 Jan 88

[Text] The Military Government in Judaea and Samaria has closed down the AL-QUDS newspaper for 45 days. Military sources said the closure order came after the paper printed an article on the confrontation between Army soldiers and terrorists in the north without first presenting the article to the censor. Our reporter notes that AL-QUDS was closed down at the beginning of this month for similar reasons.

Arab Plot To Kill Jew

TA221214 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1100 GMT 22 Jan 88

[Text] Two Arabs from the territories are suspected of trying to murder a Jewish youth out of nationalist motives. One of them was detained today for 8 days. The police maintain that the two had plotted to kill a Jew in retaliation for what the Jews have been doing to the Arabs in the territories. They tried to knife a Jewish youth near Independence Park in Tel Aviv last night, but the man was saved thanks to the alertness of a passerby.

Temple Mount Attendance Low

TA221145 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1100 GMT 22 Jan 88

[Excerpts] Our military correspondent Alon Ben-David reports from the Gaza Strip:

[Begin recording] [Ben-David] Four Gaza Strip refugee camps—Jabalyah, Al-Nusayrat, Al-Mughazi, and Al-Burayj—are still under curfew. The curfew on Al-Burayj was lifted for a few hours today to allow for prayers to be held in the mosques. The other four refugee camps—Rafah, Khan Yunus, Al-Shatti', and Dayr al-Balah—are no longer under curfew as of this morning. So far, as we said, it has been quiet in the Gaza Strip, and no outstanding incidents have been recorded. Most of the laborers left for work in Israel this morning.

An IDF spokesman-sponsored information center was opened this morning at the Erez roadblock at the entrance to the Gaza Strip. It will provide services to the many reporters that arrive here. Major Uri, the officer on duty, told us the following about the purpose of this center:

[Uri] The purpose of the information center is to provide correspondents from Israel and from abroad with updated reports on events in the Gaza Strip from the moment of their entry. Another function is to coordinate their visits to IDF units and local commands, and provide any other assistance required to help them fulfill their job in the Gaza Strip in the best possible manner. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Two refugee camps in Samaria, and the old and new 'Askar camps, are still under curfew.

Our correspondent Shlomi Stein is on the Temple Mount in Jerusalem, and provides this updated report:

Prayers here on the Temple Mount ended just a few moments ago. Some 4,000 Muslims came here for Friday prayers today, a relatively small number compared to other Fridays. Most of them have already left the Temple Mount grounds, leaving only two main groups still on the premises: One group includes dozens of women congregated near the Al-Aqsa mosque shouting slogans. Unfortunately, we cannot make out what they are shouting, because of the distance. Another group comprises men who are gathered on the other side of the Temple Mount. They are shouting: Allah is Great. They are flying the Palestinian flag. Everything is still quiet, and the police have not yet intervened.

Dozens of reporters from Israel and abroad are huddled here at the Temple Mount police station, and two police helicopters are hovering over the site. As we said, so far most of the faithful have left the Temple Mount grounds, although two large groups are still chanting slogans.

W. Bank Riots, Curfew Imposed

TA221737 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 22 Jan 88

[Text] The security forces at noon imposed a curfew on the Tulkarm refugee camp and the village of Bayt 'Ur al-Tahta in the Ramallah area following disturbances and rioting by youths. The curfew is continuing on the old and new 'Askar refugee camps near Nabulus. The villages of Si'ir and Al-Mazra'ah al-Sharqiyah are still under blockade.

There were marches, incidents of stone throwing, and disturbances in various places in Judaea and Samaria today, in the wake of a call by nationalistic bodies to mark this Friday as the day of the Palestinian victim.

Jerusalem Imam Convicted

TA221335 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic 22 Jan 88 p 1

[Text] Jerusalem—The Israeli military court sentenced Shaykh Najih Da'ud, imam of 'Umar Bin al-Khattab mosque in Jerusalem, to 1 year in prison and 6 months suspended sentence on security charges.

W. Bank Fatah Urges 'Amirav Plan Be Discussed

TA211228 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 21 Jan 88 pp 1, 4

[Report by Pinhas 'Inbari, Dorit Gefen and Uri Horowitz]

[Excerpt] A group of Fatah supporters in the West Bank is trying to convince the PLO leadership to publicly announce its willingness to discuss the 'Amirav plan. Our correspondent has learned that the appeal to the PLO leadership has apparently already been made.

The PLO supporters say that Rabin's policy in the territories proves that the hopes the Palestinians pinned on the Labor Party were unjustified, and that even if Peres wants to meet them halfway, Rabin is paralyzing him. In the Likud, on the other hand, there is greater potential for meeting the Palestinians halfway, despite current statements against the PLO, because the Likud is basically against the Hashemites. At this point, the extent to which the PLO is willing to acquiesce to the appeal of the group from the territories is unknown.

The 'Amirav plan calls for granting true autonomy to the Palestinians in the West Bank following negotiations between the PLO and Israel. Israel would retain authority over the autonomous West Bank, but the Palestinians would implement their right to self-determination east of the Jordan River. [passage omitted]

Fundamentalists Behind Call for General Strike
TA190954 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English
19 Jan 88 pp 1, 10

[Report by Bernard Josephs and Bradley Burston]

[Excerpt] Moslem fundementalists, disturbed by the flagging unrest in the territories, have called on Palestinians to stage an all-out strike today.

Weariness and the effects of prolonged curfews appear to have dampened the enthusiasm of protesters. But last night Palestinian sources warned that the respite was only temporary. "What we have been seeing in recent weeks is only the tip of the iceberg. Things in the West Bank and Gaza will never go back to normal," said one source.

Leaflets signed by the "Uprising Committee" were distributed in the West Bank and in East Jerusalem, calling for a "complete standstill" by Palestinians, with not even private vehicles to be driven. And they demanded that people in the territories "continue and intensify the struggle."

Both Palestinian and Israeli sources saw the leaflets as a response by activists to the relatively calm atmosphere of the last three days, during which over a quarter of a million people have been living under curfew, mainly in the Gaza Strip.

Israeli experts said the committee was almost certainly a Moslem fundamentalist organization. And they pointed out that the PLO has become so disturbed by the challenge of religious extremists that it has set up a "Moslem Department." [passage omitted]

Negotiating With PLO Seen as Way to Peace
TA211901 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic
21 Jan 88 p 1

[Editorial: "Rabin's Force and Blows Policy"]

[Text] In the wake of the "tour" taken by Israeli Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin the day before yesterday to some parts of the West Bank, he said that he had issued "instructions" to the IDF to resort to what he called "force and blows" to prevent demonstrations in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Rabin added that the Army will implement this new suppressive policy to confront what he termed "violent acts."

Before commenting on this part of Rabin's statement, we would like to remind him of what he admitted to THE NEW YORK TIMES, that the violent incidents in the occupied territories "are the direct outcome of the uncertainties of the last 20 years."

It is obvious to one and all, through this acknowledgment by Rabin, that the "force and blows" method will neither lead to the elimination of the "uncertainties of the last 20 years" nor keep the Palestinian people from their most elementary right, that of expressing the long suffering inflicted upon them in all spheres by these "uncertainties."

Therefore, it would be better and more appropriate if Rabin were to resort to the logical and correct method, namely, Israeli acceptance of negotiating with the PLO as the Palestinian people's legitimate and sole representative, and to work earnestly and sincerely to achieve a just and durable solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict, the basis of which for 7 decades has been the Palestinian problem.

As to Rabin's remark to the U.S. paper that Israel is ready to negotiate to restore the level of "tranquility" to the level that prevailed in the occupied territories at the beginning of last December, this remark means nothing at all with respect to the future aspired to by the Palestinian people—a future that would bring about a better life and full national independence. This is one of the Palestinian people's legitimate rights, based on all international charters and norms, just as it is the legitimate right of every nation on earth.

What is required is a pattern of objectivity, courage, and vision that would produce tranquility based on real peace.

We would like to reiterate that negotiation with the PLO, and not alluding to "force and blows," is the best method for making peace.

AL-NAHAR Lauds Lahat's Proposals on Peace

TA201845 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic
19 Jan 88 p 1, 11

[Editorial: Lahat's Remarks and the Awakening of Conscience"]

[Text] Tel Aviv Mayor Shlomo Lahat's remarks and proposals for ending the current events in the occupied Arab territories can be considered as the beginning of the awakening of conscience by a responsible section of the Israeli leadership. This is based on what he declared was his conviction that a fundamental solution can only be political, and that escalation and the use of soldiers to fight the residents of the occupied territories was unacceptable to him because it will not achieve the desired objective.

Although we do not agree with Lahat about some of his details for a settlement, particularly those relating to the future of Jerusalem, the final form of these proposals is a sound rationale for a long-term and just solution of the Palestinian problem.

From the international and legal aspects, the last legal and legitimate holder and possessor of the West Bank was Jordan. Lahat's proposals affirm the reality included in the Palestinian-Jordanian agreement, which stipulated the establishment of a Jordanian-Palestinian confederation by the free will of the Arab Palestinian people immediately upon the withdrawal of the Israeli forces.

As for the issue of Jerusalem, it cannot be separated from the Palestinian problem as a whole, because this city represents a religious and cultural heritage not only to its Arab residents but also to several hundred millions of the Arab and Islamic nation. Hence its status, the same as the rest of the occupied territories, is subject to discussion and negotiations within the framework of determining its legal and political future.

What is important now, more than ever before, is for Lahat's idea to have an echo and impact on senior Israeli officials, so that it will affect the political decision they adopt, which most certainly should result from a sound assessment of the present circumstances as well as of the motives and reasons behind the current incidents. This should occur while bearing in mind that these motives and reasons under no circumstances constitute a threat to Israel's security, which is how they are being depicted by those who want to aggravate the situation and who rule out a fundamental political solution to the crisis.

The Israeli leadership is called upon to respond positively to the demands of the international community and to realize that the time factor is not working at all in favor of peace and amity. Hence, all the parties are required to embark on a practical initiative and to work sincerely to achieve a peaceful settlement, because all the nations instinctively realize the truth in statements and proclamations, and whether or not these are sincere or only aim to coopt events and gain time.

A final question we pose to the Labor Party, which has not stopped rambling about a political solution, an international conference, and negotiations: Why have we not heard from any of the leaders of this party statements similar to those made by Lahat, who is from the Likud? Or is it only the Israeli right wing that has the courage to propose peace initiatives?

Editorial Questions 'Policy of Blows' Morality

TA211333 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew
21 Jan 88 p 2

[Editorial: "Blows, Another Proof"]

[Text] A major who had slapped the face of an Arab was demoted by the IDF 2 years ago. This was the norm until 2 months ago. A complaint about a beating was immediately followed by an investigation. Yesterday the commander of the Central Command declared a "policy of blows" as a method to be used against Arabs. In actually, the commander has merely converted a de facto situation that prevailed since the beginning of the riots into one of a de jure nature. As of tomorrow morning, beating is a free-for-all.

Throughout the years, the IDF has disapproved of the use of violence against civilians. Nowadays, however, the IDF requires violence. This is an indication of the mire it has gotten itself into, another proof that occupation cannot be enlightened.

It would seem that the "policy of blows" is a substitute for shooting. The idea was first voiced in January by former Intelligence chief Major General (Res.) Shlomo Gazit. The concept behind this policy is: Blows and a declaration of blows to come are a deterrent. Beating is better than killing—a new means of battle, a hitherto unexplored element of deterrence.

It is still unclear why youths who are not afraid of bullets would fear blows. It is not precisely clear, therefore, where this policy will lead, but it will certainly not provide a solution to the problem. It is evident, on the other hand, that when think tanks become empty, they fill up with violence. Without paying much attention, we drift into solutions and deeds that only 2 months ago we found so repugnant.

What restrictions will we divest ourselves of tomorrow morning?

Shamir Aide's Article Advocates Autonomy Plan

TA171441 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew
17 Jan 88 p 9

[Article by Yosi Ben-Aharon, the director general of the Prime Minister's Office: "The Autonomy Plan—The Only Realistic Solution;" passages in boldface as published]

[Text] Last week, on 6 January, Egyptian President Husni Mubarak granted an interview to AL-ANBA', an important Kuwaiti newspaper, in which he said, among other things:

"The Camp David accords consist of two documents. The first document is to solve the Egyptian-Israeli problem, and the second document is just a general framework of principles for settling the Palestinian problem in all of its aspects. The first document ended with the Egyptian-Israeli treaty and the return of the Sinai to Egypt. We discussed the second document on solving all aspects of the Palestine question with Israel.

As for the second document, which deals with the solution to the Palestinian problem from all its aspects, when we discussed it with Israel, I found out that our Arab brethren were attacking Egypt because it was trying to reach a solution to the Palestinian problem. If talks on the second framework of Camp David had continued, we would have been in a much better position now."

These remarks by the Egyptian president are very enlightening as they can only have one meaning: President Mubarak regrets the fact that Egypt terminated the negotiations over the Camp David accords and admits that if the Egyptians had not terminated the autonomy talks after President al-Sadat's death, the Palestinians would be faring much better today.

In that same interview, President Mubarak added: "If Egypt had not been cursed and attacked while it was discussing the second part of the Camp David accords, we would have already been in the advanced stages of a solution to the autonomy." In other words, Egypt regrets having terminated the negotiations on autonomy and is telling the Palestinians and the Arab countries: You asked us to do this, which makes you responsible for a lack of progress toward solving the Palestinian problem.

President Mubarak's remarks offer the first explicit explanation of why Egypt terminated the negotiations with us on the autonomy plan, and an admission that this was done due to pressure from other Arab elements. So far, the Arabs habitually blamed us for cutting short the talks because we presented exaggerated demands. But now we hear from President Mubarak himself why they were actually stopped.

At the same time, in another public statement, President Mubarak claimed this, in contrast to the AL-ANBA' interview, that the talks were cut short because Israel legislated the Jerusalem and Golan laws. Unfortunately, this argument is groundless. "The Basic Law: Jerusalem, the Capital of Israel" was passed by the Knesset on 30 July 1980 while "The Golan Heights Law" was passed on 14 December 1981. Nevertheless, on 20 April 1982, after both these laws had been passed, President Mubarak sent an official message to then Prime Minister Menahem Begin stating:

"We intend to go on negotiating with you, with the help of the United States as our full partner, until we reach an agreement. It is imperative that we reactivate the process of solving the Palestinian question, seeing that we are determined to arrive at a comprehensive and lasting settlement of the Middle East conflict based on the clauses of the Camp David framework **which remains the only binding document on both our countries**. This is our policy at present **and it will remain unchanged in the future**."

As said, the basic law on Jerusalem was passed by the Knesset almost 2 years ago and Israeli sovereignty was implemented on the Golan Heights 4 months before this letter was sent. Therefore, it is obvious that in April 1982 Mubarak realized very well that the peace process with Israel must be pursued along the route of Camp David, despite the legislation of the laws on the application of Israeli sovereignty over Jerusalem and the Golan Heights. It has only recently been argued that the autonomy talks had stopped because of these laws.

We do not want to start an argument with the Egyptian president. On the contrary, we want to solve problems, prevent misunderstandings, and uproot all the sources of hostility and hatred in the Middle East. In order to do that—and as the Egyptian president noted in his letter to Mr Begin as well as in the above-mentioned interview in a Kuwaiti paper—we must return to the route of Camp David. Of course, nobody says that this will be easy or that everything will be solved as soon as we get seated around the negotiating table, but this is the logical way to go about it. Both Egypt and Israel agreed to it, with the help of the United States.

Particularly these days, in view of what has been happening in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza District, it has become evident that this is a good and appropriate plan that can suitably solve the problems we are currently experiencing. Few of those attacking the autonomy plan or those who claim that it is unrealistic have ever taken the trouble to read it, and they probably do not know that this plan means full autonomy and real self-rule except on issues related to security and foreign policy. The excellence of this plan lies in the fact that it satisfies most of the wishes of the incumbent parties, without forcing any of them to go back on their principles.

Those who yearn for and want Israeli sovereignty over all areas of Eretz Yisra'el can accept this plan because when the negotiating stage starts, after 5 years of peaceful coexistence in the framework of the transition period,

they will be able to demand Israeli sovereignty while those who want Arab sovereignty may also demand it at the end of those 5 years. This will be what the negotiations will be all about and, after all, this is what we want: direct negotiations with our Arab neighbors.

Admittedly, this way also entails risks, but they cannot be compared to the risks entailed in the proposed alternative, that of an international conference. The Arab world is split on many issues and united on only one: their wish for an international conference. This holds true for the radicals, such as the PLO and Syria, as well as for the moderates, such as Egypt and Saudi Arabia.

Why have all of them rallied around the international conference plan? Is it because all of them have suddenly become peace-seekers who are interested in our good, or is it because they know very well that an international conference where the Soviet Union would be the leading star would jeopardize the interests of Israel and bring it to its knees?

The Arab-Soviet plan for an international conference is meant to drive Israel into a trap from which it will not be able to get out unless it pays a dear price. In contrast, it is now more obvious than ever that the autonomy plan based on the Camp David Accords we signed is better, healthier, and more realistic for Israel than any other plan. As noted, Egypt accepted it and the United States signed it. So, why should we also not insist on it? Logic and our national interest demand that we do so. And, if these days, in spite of the events in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza, President Mubarak publicly says that it is regrettable that Egypt abandoned the autonomy plan, there is no more tangible proof that there is a real chance that the Arab countries and its leaders may accept this principle and come sit with us to hold negotiations on the autonomy plan based on the Camp David framework.

Responsibility for Former Mossad Agent Denied

TA200639 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew
18 Jan 88 p A2

[Report by Ilan Bakhar and Ran Dagoni]

[Text] The U.S. Administration has asked Israel to get an Israeli, Mikha'el (Mike) Harari, out of Panama. Among his other activities, Harari is in charge of protecting and providing bodyguard services for Panamanian strongman General Manuel Antonio Noriega. The United States wants to see Noriega ousted, contending that he is responsible for instability in Panama. According to the administration, Harari, a former Mossad man, is successfully warding off any attempt to overthrow the general.

Officials in Jerusalem told MA'ARIV that Harari is indeed retired from the Mossad and is now a private citizen who is not operating on behalf of or with the consent of the Government of Israel. Israel conveyed a similar message to the United States, explaining that it cannot order Harari out of Panama because all of his dealings in that country are private and his own responsibility. The United States was not satisfied with that answer.

UPI, reporting from Jerusalem, maintains that Mikha'el Harari, a former Mossad agent, has tracked down and wiped out the terrorists who were involved in the massacre of the Israeli sportsmen at the 1972 Munich Olympics. The report adds that Harari retired from the Mossad in 1978 after agents subordinate to him mistakenly murdered a Moroccan waiter in Norway, thinking that he was Abu Nidal.

U.S. officials said that they believe Harari's activity in Panama is tacitly sanctioned by Israel. Foreign Ministry Spokesman Ehud Gol said that there is no connection between Israel and Harari. The spokesman for the Israeli Embassy in Washington, Yosi Gal, said that reports of friction between Israel and the United States over the Harari affair are grossly exaggerated. Gavri'el Azulay, the spokesman for the Israeli Embassy in Panama, said that Harari is no longer an Israeli citizen and that he is currently serving as Panama's consul in Israel.

Prime Minister Returns From Damascus 20 Jan

JN201825 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 20 Jan 88

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i returned to Amman this evening. He was seen off upon departure from Damascus by Syrian Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi, a number of Cabinet ministers, and the Jordanian ambassador in Damascus.

Al-Khasawinah on 'Uprising,' Al-Rifa'i Visit

JN202022 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 20 Jan 88

[Text] Information Minister Dr Hani al-Khasawinah has asserted that the valiant uprising being staged by the sons of our Arab people in the occupied territories was triggered by the Israeli occupation, its repressive measures, and its oppressive practice's. He added that this uprising has created a new situation in both the Arab and international arenas related to the Palestinians' affirmation that they reject the occupation and will oppose it with their intrinsic resources.

This uprising has revealed to international public opinion, world governments and the United Nations that Israel's intransigence, its rejection of an international conference, and its adherence to delusions regarding the fruits of perpetual occupation, as well as to imposed domination by use of force, have all led to the exacerbation of this situation in the region.

In a statement to PETRA-JNA, the minister added: Jordan believes that supporting the uprising and defending all national rights are pan-Arab responsibilities. He went on to say: The Amman summit, the summit of reconciliation and accord, has bolstered the nation's march and its course of action.

His Majesty King Husayn has been eager in the past to follow up the situation in the occupied territories. This follow-up is filled with pride in the steadfastness that has been displayed by the Arab citizens and also in their collective resistance to the occupation despite the hard conditions of oppression, hunger, and winter which they are undergoing.

The minister said that the visit by Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i to Damascus today falls within the framework of a Jordanian move to preserve the Arab stand and enhance the climate for Arab reconciliation brought about by the recent Amman summit. This takes into consideration that Arab unity is the basic guarantee for safeguarding the pillars of collective Arab defense and protecting all legitimate rights of the Arab nation.

Foremost among these rights are supporting our Arab people's uprising to rid them of the yoke of occupation and bring about just peace in the region, ending the Iraq-Iran war, and entrenching the march of Arab solidarity among Arab states by continuing to exert honest and responsible efforts to enable the Arab nation to confront the imminent, fateful challenges facing it.

Al-Rifa'i, House Members Examine 'Uprising'

JN211719 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 21 Jan 88

[Text] Amman—An expanded meeting comprising the members of the Foreign Affairs Committee and the Occupied Territories Affairs Committee of the House of Representatives and a number of general representatives was held at the Parliament today.

Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i, the minister of state for parliamentary affairs, the information minister, and the interior minister attended the meeting, which was chaired by House Speaker 'Akif al- Fayiz.

During this meeting, the exacerbating situation in the occupied territories and the valiant anti-occupation uprising were reviewed. A large number of representatives took part in the discussions. Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i presented Jordan's stand under His Majesty King Husayn. His majesty has continued to hold contacts and consultations with his brothers the Arab leaders and in the international arena in order to make the kinfolk's uprising lead to the end of occupation and bring about a just and lasting peace in the region.

Al-Rifa'i also presented the measures that have been taken by the Jordanian Government to support Arab citizens, provide relief services to refugees, and secure aid for them.

At the end of the 3-hour meeting, Rizq al-Batayinah, chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, spoke on behalf of the members of the two committees. He voiced pride in Jordan's role, which is being sponsored by His Majesty King Husayn.

He also expressed the appreciation of the members of the two committees of the measures taken by Jordan and also of the responsible follow-up of the developments of the valiant uprising. These measures are prompted by the desire to help realize the objectives of our people in the occupied territories regarding ending the occupation and establishing a lasting and comprehensive peace.

Al-Qasim Statement on Return From Gulf Tour

JN191958 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 19 Jan 88

[Text] Royal Hashemite Court Chief Marwan al-Qasim returned to Amman this afternoon at the end of a tour of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain, the Sultanate of Oman, and the UAE.

In a statement to PETRA-JNA, Al-Qasim said: His Majesty King Husayn has instructed me to convey his majesty's messages to his brothers, the leaders of the GCC, dealing with the details of the sweeping popular uprising against the Israeli occupation and its repressive practices in the occupied Arab territories.

The messages also deal with ways to increase support for the kinfolk's steadfastness on their lands and national soil. This increased support will make the occupation authorities realize that they cannot occupy the Arab territories forever and at the same time avoid the international community's desire to find a comprehensive and just settlement through an international peace conference on the Middle East in accordance with the international legitimacy that guarantees the retrieval of the Palestinian people's legitimate national rights.

Al-Qasim also said the royal messages he conveyed to the Arab leaders dealt with the results of His Majesty King Husayn's talks with the Soviet leaders during his recent visit to the Soviet Union. He added that during the visit King Husayn briefed the Soviet leaders on the resolutions of the Amman summit regarding ways to end the Iraq-Iran war as well as Arab unanimity on the need to convene an international peace conference.

Al-Qasim also said: The royal messages also touch on His Majesty King Husayn's contacts with EC leaders, the General Secretariat of the Nonaligned Movement, and the OAU through his majesty the king's messages, which I recently conveyed to them.

U.S. Veto, UK 'Hypocrisy' Force UN Inaction

JN201330 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 20 Jan 88 p 24

[Article by the political editor: "Yes, In the Same Trench of Aggression"]

[Text] The occupied area of southern Lebanon suffers in the same way as all the territories occupied by "Israel." The people of southern Lebanon, expressing their human rights, resist the occupation.

However, because of the U.S. veto and British hypocrisy which reject the right of the Lebanese people to resist occupation, Lebanon and the United Nations must accept Israel's oppressive measures. This is because southern Lebanon, as the Israeli representative in the U.S. seat says, is a center of terrorism and violence that threatens the security of Israel.

Well, the Golan is also occupied and people there demonstrate against the occupation, yet the Golan is not the center of terrorism and violence and it does not threaten the security of "Israel." So then why does the United States use its veto whenever there is a word of condemnation against the Israeli occupation of the Golan and the imposition of Israeli law on it?

The U.S. veto in the UN Security Council and its British tail is understood by us, by the Lebanese, by the whole world, and of course by Israel as explicit U.S.-British support for the occupation of southern Lebanon and the Israeli oppressive measures there. Otherwise, what is required from people living under occupation? Why should the Lebanese accept occuaption? Why shouldn't they resist a declared military occupation?

The Arab citizen makes no distinction now between "Israel" and the United States. In fact, U.S. financial and military support for the racist, expansionist Israeli force, as well as its political and diplomatic cover for Israel's oppressive measures in Palestine, Lebanon, and Syria, represent a more advanced stage in hostility toward our people than that of Israel. It also gives constant encouragement to the superiority and expansionist madness that characterizes the leaders of the Zionist racist entity.

It is now clear to every Arab that the United States opposes any political solution to the occupation, supports the imposition of the Israeli solution through the use of force, and prevents the world from adopting a moral stand that condemns occupation and its oppressive measures. What can UN Security Council resolutions do other than provide moral condemnation of a mentality and methods which the 20th century man rejects?

The U.S. Administration and the criminal murderous champions of Zionist extremism are one and the same thing. The Israeli soldier who shoots in Palestine or drops bombs on Lebanon is a mercenary paid by the United States, armed with a U.S. rifle, bullets, plane, and missile. If this is not the case, can anyone give us a different interpretation?

The state of stagnation imposed on the Arabs preventing them from actively confronting the imperialist-racist alliance neither represents the reality of this nation nor does it reflect the burning hatred under the surface. This nation, which boasts 7000 years of civilization, will never die. It will rise, confront, and uproot—as it did in the past—all seeds of wickedness from its soil.

The "cowboy" empire will pay the price of long-suffering. This nation is destined to demolish empires.

U.S. Veto in UN Security Council Criticized

JN201001 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 20 Jan 88 pp 1, 20

[Editorial: "The U.S. Veto Does Not Nullify Condemnation of Aggressors"]

[Text] The United States has voted against a UN Security Council draft resolution condemning repeated Israeli acts of aggression on Lebanon. This new-old U.S. stand might have passed by as a clear expression of

Washington's continued support for all the practices of the Israeli entity and for all the terrorism and racism that characterizes these practices.

However, the U.S. justification for the rejection of the Security Council resolution is not only astonishing, but also shows how far the United States has decided to go in its support for this Israeli terrorism, racism, and aggression.

The justification which the U.S. representative gave for his country's voting against the resolution is extremely odd, yet it is the kind of oddness that we observe with fear and dread. When a superpower, such as the United States, decides not to condemn acts of aggression because such condemnation cannot contribute toward ending the causes of these acts, and when it decides not to denounce terrorism, the slaughter of civilians, and the demolishing of houses, schools, and mosques because such denouncement does not prevent the continuation of these racist practices, this means only one thing, namely, U.S. support and approval.

It reflects only one fact, namely, that the United States is not at all embarrassed to provide political cover for the aggressors and terrorists in occupied Palestine, South Africa, or in any part of the world under the control of violent or dictatorial institutions which perpetrate murder, slaughter, and destruction. That is, providing these institutions remain part of the free world lead by Washington.

A few days ago, the U.S. secretary of state expressed regret over U.S. approval of a resolution against the Israeli entity regarding its brutal handling of the Palestinian uprising. He promised that such a mistake would not be repeated. The United States has begun keeping its promise. It refused to condemn Israel's barbaric aggression on Lebanon, its deliberate slaughter of children, women and old men and indiscriminate raids on civilians.

We do not know how things will end if a superpower, which constantly talks about world peace, human rights, and a free world, continues its support and approval of every Israeli act of aggression and terrorism and of every massacre and act of slaughter the Israeli entity perpetrates.

The U.S. vote in the Security Council last Monday rejecting condemnation of Israeli aggression does not change the aims behind submitting the draft resolution, which can be summed up in one phrase: World condemnation of all aggressive policies and their supporting policies. It is therefore natural for the United States to oppose this trend, as it is directly, unequivocally, and intentionally aimed at it.

Paper Criticizes Shultz 'Apology' to Israel

JN181414 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic
18 Jan 88 pp 1, 23

[Editorial: "The U.S. Cover for Israeli Excesses"]

[Text] The Zionist enemy is continuing its repressive and arbitrary measures which have now reached the extent of imposing a starvation siege on the camps. These measures are continuing amid the extreme condemnation and denunciation of the Israeli racist measures by all sectors of world public opinion. Meanwhile, the U.S. secretary of state extends a warm apology to the Tel Aviv rulers for his country's stand at the UN Security Council.

The U.S. stand at the UN Security Council has displayed a unique contradication. The United States initially voted for a resolution calling on Israel not to exile a number of Palestinian Arab citizens, then it abstained from voting when Israel ignored that resolution. However, all this was not sufficient from Shultz' point of view. He announced, in a final act of atonement, that this stand will never be repeated as long as it disturbs Israel and intensifies its international isolation.

Perhaps the Zionist enemy leaders' prior knowledge of the final formula to be reached by the U.S. stand prompted them to reject without hesitation the successive UN Security Council resolutions issued over the past few weeks, including the resolution for which the U.S. representative voted, like the other 14 representatives at the Security Council.

The Israelis are arrogant in dealing with Security Council resolutions. The Zionists disregard world public opinion. We consider this arrogance and disregard a natural outcome of the wide-scale support expressed by various U.S. officials—explicit or implied—for all the Tel Aviv rulers' acts, even if they violate all laws, norms, and principles.

We call on Arab countries to support the Palestinian people's uprising and to extend all means of support for the uprising's heroes. At the same time, there is no doubt that action in the face of U.S. diplomacy heads the fraternal states' priorities. This is necessary to ease the U.S. bias for the current repressive Israeli measures and to halt U.S. support for the Zionist practices that violate the most basic human rights.

It is hoped the United States will be somewhat aligned with its super power commitments and with its frequent announcements regarding safeguarding man's rights, regardless of his religion, opinion, or color.

PLO Radio References Deemed 'Harmful'

JN190819 Amman AL-QUDS in Arabic
18 Jan 88 p 1

[Text] Many people in the occupied territory have complained that 'Arafat's radio in Baghdad—in the course of its attempt to involve 'Arafat in the popular uprising in our occupied land with which he has no connection—broadcasts the names of some of our sons in the occupied territory.

The enemy monitors and records these radio broadcasts and uses them as evidence against our people to prove their activity and movements and to justify the suppression and arrest of those whose names are mentioned in the radio's talks and newscasts.

AL-QUDS appeals to all those with a conscience to intervene to stop such broadcasts that are harmful to our people and that subject them to further punitive actions in addition to their sufferings.

PLO Advises Members To Remain in Camps

NC211700 Paris AFP in English 1633 GMT 21 Jan 88

[By Jacques Charmelot]

[Text] Beirut, Jan 21 (AFP)—Syrian troops policed the entrances to two Palestinian refugee camps here Thursday after the lifting of a 32-month siege by Lebanese Shi'ite forces, but the PLO cautioned its guerrillas to stay under cover, correspondents reported.

Shi'ite Amal militiamen and Lebanese Army soldiers withdrew from positions around Shatila and Burj al-Barajinah on Wednesday, following an accord with Palestinian leaders signed late the previous day. The accord authorized all camp inhabitants, including the men, to come and go at will.

But members of the 10,000-man Syrian force deployed to keep order in West Beirut maintained tight controls on the few Palestinians who took advantage of the new freedom, requiring them to leave their identity cards at Syrian checkpoints, to be picked up upon their return.

An official of the Palestine Liberation Organization's (PLO's) main Fatah group in Shatila said Syrian troops were believed to have lists of persons wanted by Syrian intelligence services, and that Fatah had instructed its guerrillas to remain inside the camp for the moment.

"We cannot leave the camps until there's a political agreement between Syria and (PLO Chairman Yasir) 'Arafat," he said. Damascus and Fatah have been on bad terms since 1983.

Syrian troops detained a Palestinian man, two women and a children [as received] at Shatila, Palestinian sources said. The man escaped, and negotiations were under way to obtain the release of the others.

Before dark, Syrian troops closed down exits at Burj al-Barajinah that had been opened during the morning. At Shatila, a single passage was opened, while residents awaited a bulldozer to open another.

Meanwhile, Palestinian sources said the PLO had allocated 200,000 dollars to begin the reconstruction of Shatila, where 95 per cent of the housing has been destroyed by bombardments during the siege, according to U.N. relief workers.

A committee was formed Thursday to oversee the reconstruction process, the sources said. They were to begin purchasing materials Friday.

Representatives of each of the Palestinian organizations also formed an internal security committee, which is to enforce the ban against carrying weapons in the camp, called for by the siege-ending agreement, sources said.

Amal fighters surrounded Shatila, with 3,500 residents, and Burj al-Barajinah, with 27,000, in May 1985 in an effort to check a resurgence of Palestinian power in Lebanon.

Women and children have been allowed to leave the camps, in southern Beirut, since last April, but the men have been forced to remain inside.

Amal leader Nabih Birri said last week that the siege would be lifted "as a tribute to the uprising of the Palestinian people in the Israeli-occupied territories."

Amal, 6th Brigade Complete Withdrawal

NC211839 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 21 Jan 88

[Text] The work connected with removing barricades and ramparts from around the Shatila and Burj al-Barajinah camps is nearing completion this evening. The Amal Movement and the 6th Brigade have completed their withdrawal from positions around the two camps, and Syrian units have assumed responsibility for security in the area.

A Palestinian source has stated that the road to the two camps has been opened and that a number of men left the camps and returned to them without incident. The source expected the situation to reflect positively on the situation east of Sidon.

Amal Releases 3 Palestinians 22 Jan

NC220935 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 22 Jan 88

[Text] Fatah has asked its members not to leave the camps in case they are arrested by the Syrians, and the head of the Syrian observers promised to release two Fatah members who were detained at the approach to Shatila camp yesterday. Meanwhile, the Amal Movement freed three Palestinians today.

Camps Accord Result of 'Soviet Pressure'

NC211841 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 21 Jan 88

[Text] Certain diplomatic sources in Beirut say that the siege on the Shatila and Burj al-Barajinah camps was lifted and the Syrian forces were deployed there as a result of Soviet pressure and the success of PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat's talks in Moscow last month.

According to these sources, the speedy, 2-day implementation of the camps security measures reflects the Soviet Union's extreme concern with regard to the Palestinian issue, as well as its eagerness to see the convening of an international conference for Middle East peace.

The same sources revealed that during the Reagan-Gorbachev summit Moscow made an urgent appeal for holding the international conference and for initiating a

dialogue among the concerned parties in that connection. However, the U.S. President had some reservations, stressing the need for prior consultations and thorough preparations.

Soviet diplomats in Beirut told several politicians that Moscow is working in earnest for the convening of such a conference and that it plans to propose new ideas in this respect during the second superpower summit meeting, scheduled to be held in Moscow in February [as heard].

The diplomatic sources say that the measures implemented yesterday and today to end the camps war anticipate future efforts to avert tension among concerned parties prior to the holding of an international conference. This explains the silence with which pro-'Arafat Palestinians greeted the end of the camps siege and the deployment of Syrian troops.

Fatah Threatens More 'Suicide Operations'

NC211749 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 21 Jan 88

[Text] A Fatah military source today commented on the operation that was carried out by three Palestinians from the Fatah Movement near Ramim settlement in Israel at dawn yesterday. As a result of that incident, three Palestinians were killed and an Israeli soldier was wounded. The source threatened further suicide operations inside Israel within the next few days.

'General Strike' Staged in Beirut, Other Areas

NC220725 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 22 Jan 88

[Text] Beirut and other Lebanese areas staged a general strike today at the call of the Islamic Grouping and the Higher Islamic Shi'ite Council to express solidarity with the resistance and the uprising in the West Bank and Gaza. The strike is to be observed throughout the Arab and Islamic worlds.

Resistance Shells Settlement in South

NC220638 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 22 Jan 88

[Text] The resistance carried out two operations against Antoine Lahd's militias yesterday. They shelled the settlement of Misqv 'Am with rockets, and the occupation forces shelled the vicinity of Al-Nabatiyah, 'Arab Salim, and Jarju' with artillery.

In a dispatch from Rashayya al-Wadi, REUTER reports that an explosive device went off under a car belonging to the Lahd militias west of Kafr Rumman yesterday. Machinegun fire was directed at the car after the explosion.

Birri Comments on Current National Problems

JN211246 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 21 Jan 88 p 13

[Interview with Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri by an unidentified correspondent in Beirut on 16 January, "the day the siege of the camps was lifted"]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] [AL-RA'Y] The presidential elections will be held in 6 months. In your opinion, is there enough time to reach a draft accord among parties that have sharp differences and that have not been able for the past 13 years of war in Lebanon to reach such a draft accord?

[Birri] Once again, I reiterate that I issued a call for an accord to all ambassadors more than a year ago. We have issued such a call frequently, like a daily alarm bell. If we are not able to reach an accord in 6 months, after the presidential elections we will not be able to attain a national accord for 6 years. The sooner this is done the better. The Lebanese broth has been spoiled by too many cooks. Everyone knows an acceptable solution for Lebanon. In our opinion, 6 months are sufficient to realize a domestic accord. Let me give you another example: It took approximately 2 months and 20 days to prepare for the talks among the Amal Movement, the PSP, and the Lebanese Forces to attain the so-called tripartite agreement. Hence, why are 6 months not sufficient to achieve accord, unless there are intentions to evade such an accord?

Here I pose a question: Is there unity in Lebanon now? The answer is definitely "no"; the goal is to bring Lebanon back together, because Lebanon is divided today. Accordingly, the next president of the Republic, without a prior accord, will be president of a divided Lebanon. This is one point. The second point is: Under what rules will the president of the Republic be elected? If he is elected under the current sectarian situation, the president will not be Maronite. However, we would like the president to be Maronite, and, therefore, we demand that accord be achieved prior to the president elections. [sentence as published] If, however, accord is not attained, why should I accept a president who belongs to a certain sect? Moreover, on what basis must I accept a president of the Lebanese Republic who belongs to the Maronite sect? Is it due to the population of individual sects, which the Maronites took advantage of when the figure was in their favor? Now, however, when demographics favor Muslims, the Maronites have begun to reject the idea of population figures. Moreover, the Lebanese Constitution to which they adhere does not stipulate that the president should be Maronite. But if they want this matter to be according to the 1943 formula, then the president should be Muslim.

[AL-RA'Y] Have you received a reply from the other party concerning your proposal on the accord prior to the presidential elections?

[Birri] This proposal has been approved by Minister Walid Junblatt, the Islamic Grouping, and many other Christian and Islamic parties. A genuine reply came yesterday through Karim Paqraduni, deputy of Dr Samir Ja'ja', the Lebanese Forces commander. Paqraduni said there will be no accord as long as there are foreign forces on Lebanese territory. This means that I am first asked to liberate Lebanon from Israel so that I can approach an accord. I can only accept this logic if Paqraduni helps me liberate southern Lebanon. But, regrettably, the forces of Paqraduni and Ja'ja' coordinate with Antoine Lahd, Israel's first assistant in the south. Moreover, Lahd paid a visit to the eastern part [of Beirut] yesterday.

[AL-RA'Y] If we consider your viewpoint on the need to achieve a national accord prior to the presidential elections, what will be the mechanism of such an accord and what are the details of its implementation?

[Birri] There are two ways to achieve a Lebanese accord: the first is through southern Lebanon, and the second is to torpedo the Lebanese regime, or at least reform it. In brief, these two solutions will restore Lebanon's unity. Regarding the Israeli question, it seems that the Lebanese Forces are unable to tackle it because this question is no longer in their hands. But if at least the internal question were in their hands, then we would have proceeded toward a solution afterwards. Any call to move the aliens out of Lebanon should not be generalized because we are Arabs first. If there is a brother and a thief in my house, I should first of all move the thief out of my house because my brother is a support for me after all. The Syrians will move out of Lebanon after the Israelis withdraw and after a national accord is achieved.

[AL-RA'Y] How true are the rumors about a U.S. plan to resolve the Lebanese problem? Is such a plan devoid of radical solutions so that only the presidential elections will preoccupy the Americans, who seek to influence these elections?

[Birri] The information I have is that such a plan aims to effect Syrian-U.S. talks and that this plan is beyond the talk about a president of the Republic. [passage omitted]

[AL-RA'Y] Regarding the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territory and the great sacrifice that the Palestinians are making to liberate the land, what effect could this blessed uprising have on Lebanon? What is the relationship between this Palestinian uprising and the Lebanese uprising? Will the Palestinian revolution have any future impact on the general situation in Lebanon?

[Birri] What is taking place today is the most noble uprising and the most sacred war by the Palestinians since 1948. If we are to compare this uprising with events in the Arab world, we will find that it is similar only to the uprisings of the people of southern Lebanon against the Israeli occupation since 1982. In fact, the Palestinian uprising is a repetition of the Lebanese uprisings. Revolutions are like culture and music; they do not belong to a particular nation, and therefore they can be adopted by any nation. What happened in southern Lebanon against Israel gave momentum to what is happening now in the West Bank and Gaza.

[AL-RA'Y] Please clarify the other part of the question. What is its impact on Lebanon?

[Birri] It has no major effect on Lebanon. But Lebanon is the biggest beneficiary of this uprising, following 13 years of darkness. Briefly, it is the most important sign of victory.

[AL-RA'Y] You mean a comprehensive Arab victory?

[Birri] A victory for Lebanon. I mean, there was a conspiracy against Lebanon and the Palestinian people aimed at settling the Palestinians in Lebanon. Had the international conference been convened before the uprising, it would have resulted in a conspiracy to settle Palestinians in the Arab world.

One of the causes of the camps war, before and after 1982, was the attempt by some Palestinian leaders to control Lebanese decisionmaking on Lebanese soil. The Lebanese did not accept the rule of Palestinian decisionmaking. Now these things are over, and we are reconsidering the whole thing. In a few minutes I will receive a Palestinian delegation.

[AL-RA'Y] Will the blessed uprising in the occupied territories have deep rooted changes in the Arab world, for example confronting Camp David and other schemes?

[Birri] I repeat that the uprising is the most noble and honorable phenomenon. However, it has not yet reached the level at which it can affect the Camp David accords or other plans. But if it is not tamed and internationalized it will have its effects. Let us remember how the loss of Palestine in 1948 shook the Arab world. This uprising will create another shock in the Arab world.

[AL-RA'Y] What do you mean by taming and internationalizing?

[Birri] I consider the so-called government-in-exile taming. The internationalization is converting this uprising into a mere internal pressure so that Shamir is replaced by Peres, so that the idea of an international peace conference will be acceptable. I fear the call of placing UN forces around the camps in the occupied territories.

[AL-RA'Y] Under these circumstances and in the context of the new Palestinian and Lebanese factors, why, in your opinion, has the camps war not ended?

[Birri] I assure you that the camps war has ended. Some incidents might occur, but I voluntarily say in the name of Amal that the war has ended. We will have a meeting with our Palestinian brothers, and we will, God willing,

announce something important, even if it is from one side. (This was on the day the siege of the camps was lifted, in accord with an Amal announcement.) [passage omitted]

Al-Huss Leaves for Talks in Damascus

NC221027 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 22 Jan 88

[Text] Acting Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss left for Damascus a short while ago for talks with Syrian officials on developments in the Lebanese situation.

Group Threatens Canadians Over Detainee

NC220812 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0745 GMT 22 Jan 88

[Text] A spokesman for a group calling itself the Organization for the Defense of Palestinian Strugglers [Munazzamat al-Difa' 'an al-Munadilin al-Filastiniyin] has warned the Canadian Government not to take action against Mahmud 'Isa, a Palestinian it has been detaining for 1 week. The group warned the Canadian Government not to harm 'Isa or hand him over to hostile groups, and threatened revenge against Canadian interests.

Statement Calls for Bahrain Detainee's Release

NC211338 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 21 Jan 88

[Text] The Committee in Defense of the Political Detainees in Bahrain [lajnat al-difa' 'an al-mu'taqalin al-siyasiyyin fi al-bahrayn] has called for securing the release of Dr Jum'ah 'Ali 'Abdallah al-Jufayri, whose life, the committee said, is now in jeopardy because of the torture he has been subjected to in Bahraini jails for the last 6 years.

In a statement distributed in Beirut and accompanied by a photo of the 31-year-old Al-Jufayri, the committee said reports by medical and judicial sources in Manama confirm that the detainee's health condition, which had deteriorated, is serious.

Al-Jufayri studied medicine at Alexandria University and was arrested in Bahrain in 1982, 7 years after his return to this country, on charges of joining an outlawed party. The committee statement, while noting that there are 1,472 political prisoners being held in Bahraini jails, pointed out that a retired British officer named (Ian Henderson), who had served in the British Army in Kenya, has been running the Bahraini intelligence apparatus since 1966 and is supervising the detention and torture procedures.

Paper Details Effort To Kill Army Chief

PM211455 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 20 Jan 88 pp 1-2

[Unattributed "exclusive" report: "Local Armed Group Behind Unsuccessful Attempt To Assassinate Lebanese Army Commander"]

[Text] An informed source in Beirut has told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that 3 weeks ago the security organ attached to Lebanese Army Commander General Michel 'Awn uncovered a plot to assassinate the general using a member of his military guard. The soldier in question, who hails from the Sham'un family, tried to commit suicide but was given first aid and survived. During interrogation he confessed that he had intended to kill the Army commander by using an explosive device operated by remote control.

The source denied reports that the security organ itself was implicated in the incident. He emphasized that the soldier's confession did not reveal any connection between any Army officer and the assassination plot. The soldier in question, the source said, has links with (local armed) groups, but the investigation may show that the assassination plot was hatched at leadership level, noting that the investigators believe that the plot may well have been hatched by some interacting circles, which is now a common thing in such incidents. He confirmed that the accused soldier is in detention and all necessary legal action will be taken against him.

The source said that this incident is not surprising. He pointed out that some months ago certain security circles spoke of an "assassination list" which included the name of Gen 'Awn. The aim of the plot to assassinate those named on that list, he said, was to create confusion and a vacuum, mix the cards, and undermine what is left of the unity of the institutions. It should be noted that Gen 'Awn has been mentioned as a possible candidate in the presidential elections next summer and that a certain international party considers him to be the man most capable of uniting the Lebanese Army in the context of a political solution.

Sources in Beirut had spoken of differences between 'Awn and President Amin al-Jumayyil, particularly since 'Awn's name began appearing as a presidential candidate. The differences intensifed at the beginning of this year when Gen 'Awn took a series of measures in retaliation for the hijacking of the Lebanese Army helicopter without first referring to the president of the Republic who, under the Constitution, is the commander in chief of the Army.

It should also be mentioned that 'Awn's relations with the Lebanese Forces leadership is always tense, particularly since some Lebanese Forces members were accused of assassinating Lebanese Army 5th Brigade Commander Colonel Khalil Kan'an in 1986 as a reprisal for the assassination of two Lebanese Forces members at a crossing point manned by 5th Brigade units. Several attempts to reconcile or mediate between 'Awn and [Lebanese Forces Executive Committee Chairman Samir] Ja'ja' have failed. There was further confirmation of these differences some months ago when 'Awn dismissed 5th Brigade Deputy Commander Lieutenant Colonel Paul Faris, allegedly because of the latter's sympathies for the Lebanese Forces.

Extension of UNIFIL Mandate Requested

NC211935 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 21 Jan 88

[Text] Lebanon has submitted an official request to the UN Security Council for the renewal of the UNIFIL

mandate for an additional 6 months. The current UNIFIL term ends later this month.

Lebanon's delegate to the United Nations, Rashid Fakhuri, has addressed a message to UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar to this effect.

Jordan's Al-Rifa'i Arrives on Visit 20 Jan

Brings Message From Husayn

JN201214 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 20 Jan 88

[Text] Damascus—Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i arrived in Damascus this afternoon on a visit to the SAR during which he will convey a message from His Majesty King Husayn to His Excellency Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad.

Syrian Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi, a number of ministers, and Jordanian Ambassador in Damascus 'Ali Khurays received the prime minister upon arrival at Damascus International Airport. After shaking hands with senior officials, the prime minister and Al-Zu'bi left in an official motorcade for Al-Rawdah Palace in Damascus.

Meets With Al-Asad

JN201302 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 20 Jan 88

[Excerpt] At 1330 today President Hafiz al-Asad received Jordan's Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i. The meeting was attended by Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi and Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'. Al-Rifa'i conveyed to the president a message from His Majesty King Husayn of Jordan. [passage omitted]

Leaves Damascus

JN201854 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 20 Jan 88

[Excerpts] At 1330 today President Hafiz al-Asad received Jordan's Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i. The meeting was attended by Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi and Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'. Al-Rifa'i conveyed to the president a message from His Majesty King Husayn of Jordan. Talks dealt with the situation in the region, its developments, our kinfolk's uprising in the occupied territory, and issues of mutual concern.

Al-Rifa'i, Al-Zu'bi, and Al-Shar' had dinner with the president. [passage omitted]

At 1830 today Al-Rifa'i left Damascus. He was seen off by Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi, a number of ministers, and the Jordanian ambassdor in Damascus.

Uprising Highlights Country's Pan-Arab Role

PM201137 Damascus TISHRIN in Arabic 9 Jan 88 p 1

['Amid Khuli editorial: "Occupied Territories Revolution in Its 2d Month"]

[Text] So here is Syria continuing the pan-Arab role it solemnly pledged when it promised the Arab masses through its leader Hafiz al-Asad 18 years ago that it would shoulder the pan-Arab burden, which constitutes a daily and worrying problem.

The principles of Syria's pan-Arab stand on the cause of struggle in the region have become distinguished in the Arab struggle arena and are referred to when there is a difficult historical situation or task that requires Syria's major role as promoted by President Hafiz al-Asad in Arab, regional, and international politics. Such a role constitutes a struggle foundation for any Arab masses' uprising which would, consequently, represent a barrier in the face of apostasies and schemes hostile to our nation, which are many!

Whenever the Arab horizon diminishes, whenever the masses' hopes are supressed due to difficult political deteriorations, and whenever the nation is in a state of shock, they turn to Hafiz al-Asad's Syria. All this has been reflected in many stands representing sharp turns in the course of Arab struggle since the October war, Camp David, the May agreement in Lebanon, and the Gulf war now—the war which we will not describe in length since it, with its effects and future implications, has nothing to do with pan-Arab innocence or cleanliness.

Here is Syria responding to the pan-Arab call every time. Objectively, had it not been for Syria, Camp David would have spread to dangerous areas in the Arab body. Therefore the objective conclusion is that Syria has been the revolutionary booster for our people's struggle in Palestine, who are continuing their huge revolution for a 2d month.

This people would not have even been able under the Camp David climate to reject occupation. And had it not been for Syria their struggle would have been tainted with riots and probably terrorism in accordance with Camp David's lexicon and vocabulary, some of which have already been used by that regime when a so-called spokesman described the Palestinian people's revolution in the occupied territories as "being reaction to statements made by Israeli leaders"!

Just think: This regime condemns our people's revolution and is trying to strip it of its nationalist, pan-Arab, revolutionary concept and pass it off as a deviation or angry reaction as if it were a transient rebellion — something which the enemy himself does not say, but rather attributes to Syrian acts and incitements.

To Camp David's logic, the revolution—which shook the Zionist entity's foundations and required high-level Israeli assurances that "there is no fear, the entity will not collapse"—is a mere reaction!

It is clear that this official Egyptian twaddle is an attempt to achieve two things: First, to eclipse the revolutionary booster, represented by Syria's stands and struggle in the process of awakening the masses, which sparked off the revolution in the occupied territories and in areas Israel and Egypt thought were completely digested, contained, and removed from the struggle arena—namely, the territories occupied before 1948—since they thought the people there had been tamed.

The second matter is the regime's fear that the Palestinian people's revolution might expand to the Egyptian people through the same booster—as already happened when the great Egyptian people rose up to condemn the Camp David agreement and burn Israeli flags, demanding the abrogation of the agreement and the expulsion of the Zionist ambassador.

The Camp David regime realizes that a movement like this, even on a minimal scale, could inflame the feelings of the masses with a revolutionary infection that would spread like fire, spreading mass struggle geographically and at a pan-Arab level from Palestine to Egypt in a huge revolution to topple the regime that deserted the people's will in Arab Egypt—which is the regime's main worry.

This is also an objective matter in view of Syria's pan-Arab role. That which besieged Camp David and prevented its expansion and then killed the May agreement before it was born, that which is inspired by the struggle of our people in their revolution against occupation in Palestine must be indeed a source of dangerous struggle radiating in all directions!

Here is Syria, and once again the Gulf is turning to it so it may play its pledged pan-Arab role. Everyone will soon realize the soundness of Syria's stands and the comprehensiveness of its vision, as well as the way it handles events in struggle arenas and its capability in such stands of achieving important results.

These are some characteristics attributable to a great leader who has promoted Syria's pan-Arab role and formula.

Afghanistan

India's Sharma Arrives for Ghafar Khan Funeral

LD211959 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1530 GMT 21 Jan 88

[Excerpt] Today at Gol Khanah Palace, President of Afghanistan Esteemed Najibullah, acompanied by Foreign Minister 'Abdul Wakil, received Shankar Dayal Sharma, vice president of the Republic of India, at 1700 for a friendly meeting. He arrived in Kabul today at the head of a high-ranking state and parliamentary delegation to attend the late Khan 'Abdul Ghafar Khan's funeral.

The meeting was also attended by His Excellency H.K.L. Baghat, minister of parliamentary affairs; Dr Faruq Abdullah, prime minister of Jammu and Kashmir; [first name indistinct] Yunus, the head of the Indian trade exhibition; and I. Mosla, Indian ambassador and extraordinary representative.

At the meeting Esteemed Najibullah recalled the role of Pasha Khan, the great leader of the Pashtuns and a great leader of the liberation movement of Afghan India and the whole Indian subcontinent, and outlined his great role as a central figure for all strugglers of freedom. Emphasizing the traditional links between Afghanistan and India, President Najibullah expressed gratitude to India for its support for the causes of the Afghan people, which is the cause of peace, friendship, nonalignment, and freedom. He recalled the warm welcome which was accorded to the recent Afghan high-ranking state and party delegation to India and his meeting with Indian Prime Minister His Excellency Rajiv Gandhi.

In reply Dayal Sharma voiced thanks for the warm and friendly words imparted to him by the Afghan side and assured him of further cooperation and strengthening of the present friendly and fraternal relations between the two countries. The Indian vice president expressed the unstinting support of his government and people for the policy of national reconciliation which has been implemented as a result of the creative initiatives of the PDPA and President Najibullah personally. [passage omitted]

Najibullah Speech to Tribal Commanders

LD180035 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 17 Jan 88

[Speech by President Najibullah to commanders of tribal units at a meeting at Delkosha Palace; date not given—recorded]

[Text] Brothers, friends and comrades, commanders of the regional and tribunal units, first of all allow me to express thanks for the heroism that you have shown in maintaining the security of the people in the region, and as a whole for the services that you have rendered toward the realization of the policy of national reconciliation. [applause]

Today's meeting takes place at a time when 1 day ago—15 January—1 year has passed since the announcement of national reconciliation in the country. As is known to you and all people of our country, the final and principal aim of this policy is the cessation of the fratricidal war and the attainment of peace and security in our land. The PDPA Central Committee and the state of the Republic of Afghanistan have undertaken and implemented a lot of work during the 1 year which has passed, concerning the strengthening of the Armed Forces and the civilian Armed Forces of the country.

During the month of Hut [20 February-20 March] the new conscription law, in which the period of conscription and reservists has been considerably reduced, was approved. In the course of last year more than 130,000 people have been recruited and called up to the ranks of the Armed Forces.

Measures have been implemented concerning the improvement of the system of payment and other privileges of the personnel of the Armed Forces, under which the payments to men and NCO's have been increased from six and a half times to seven times on the aggregate. To improve the material security of the personnel of the Armed Forces and their families, measures have been taken and implemented which, as a whole, have strengthened the prestige of the Army, the people's militia and the organs of state security and have strengthened the readiness of the personnel to defend the gains of the revolution and realize the policy of national reconciliation.

During the year which has passed, the organizational structure of the Armed Forces has been improved and it has been strengthened and developed quantitatively and qualitatively. Attention has been paid to the question of bringing up to strength the border forces, to rapidly creating a system for shielding the borders and strengthening joint combat efforts with the border tribes and clans. As a result, the level of strength of the border forces has been increased. Our civilian Armed Forces have developed during the year which has passed and are growing qualitatively as well as quantitatively. Some 42,000 people have been added to their number during this 1 year.

Comrades and friends, we announced a 6 month cease-fire from 15 January 1987. Notwithstanding the fact that the cease-fire has been breached hundreds of times by the opposition, we stand by it and continue to observe it. The enemies of national reconciliation, who are the enemies of our people, frivolously and callously disregarding our people and their homeland, engage in looting and terrorism, murder innocent compatriots, and shell cities, villages, economic establishments, and military and transport ground and air units. They are continuing to transfer and deploy weapons and lay mines. All these actions by the extremists spring from enmity to the people, backed by the sworn enemies of our people—the imperialists.

What measures have been taken and implemented during this year? A unilateral cease-fire; the freeing of about 19,000 prisoners; the issuing of a decree on the return of property; the pardoning of those who have committed crimes and their return to society; the new law on land and water which is based on allowing the ownership of 100 jeribs of agricultural land or more than 100 jeribs of garden land or its equivalent; the promulgation of the country's new Constitution in which it was announced that Islam is the official religion of Afghanistan; the changing of the name of the state to the Republic of Afghanistan; the announcement and allocation of 28 posts including the Prime Ministry, vice president, and the appointment of a number of governors, district and subdistrict governors from the opposition.

We have taken these measures to reduce the level of bloodshed and to settle questions with our opponents not through war, but through negotiations. We see, however, that our enemies, vis-a-vis all our peaceful measures, are pursuing a policy of increasing military tension in Afghanistan. Our Armed Forces, too, in response to requests by the people, have engaged in reciprocal acts against the extremists.

In connection with the successful operations which were carried out to break the economic blockade of the Khowst major district and the opening of the Gardeyz-Khowst highway, it should be stated we tried every possible peaceful measure, but the extremists did not respond positively. Our Armed Forces engaged in shattering blows at the nests of the extremists and the people realized the strength of state power and our Armed Forces. After 8 years the peace convoys have begun to arrive in the southern valleys of our country to take economic assistance and necessary goods to the people of Khowst.

Despite the obstacles created by the enemies of reconciliation, the practical gains of this policy in the course of the last year are bringing happiness to our people. During this period talks have been held with 341 groups including 35,600 people from the opposition forces. Protocols to cease armed activities have been concluded with 46 groups including 38,900 people. [Words indistinct] who were opposing the state, have joined our revolutionary sovereignty and now, along with our Armed Forces, are struggling for peace and security in the country.

Some 3,370 commissions of national reconciliation, which include more than 6,000 people from the former opposition groups including the commanders and individuals of these groups, have been formed and are working actively. More than 400 of those who have joined the popular sovereignty, are working in the organs of the state power and administration. Farah and Nimruz Provinces have been declared peace zones. And 3,200 villages have joined peacefully with the state's power during this period. Around 115,000 emigrants have returned home despite the obstacles created in their way to returning home, by Pakistan and Iran.

Comrades and friends, our civilian Armed Forces, including the regional and tribal units, of which you, our friends, are the brave commanders, have carried out duties of great importance to normalize the situation in the country, to ensure the security of localities, and to implement the national reconciliation policy.

Our party and state have paid further attention to the importance, strengthening, and further growth of these forces, taken a number of measures in this regard, and put them into practice.

During the current year a new regulation for the regional forces was approved. In addition, a number of measures have been taken to increase the salaries of and give other concessions to the personnel of the regional forces. For example, an increase of 37.5 percent has been envisaged in the salary of those commanders of battalions, units, and batteries of the regional forces, who do not have military rank; an increase of 50 percent in the salary of the soldiers in the aforementioned units; and for those personnel of the regional forces, who serve on the country's borders with Iran and Pakistan, in addition to the above-mentioned raise, an increase of 30 percent has been envisaged in their basic pay.

Also, during Sonbolah of the current year [23 August-22 September] the work of the regional and tribal forces has been assessed in the Defense Council of the Republic of Afghanistan and continuously in the session of the Headquarters of the Armed Forces High Command. These measures express our interest in the regional forces. As a result, during the year since the declaration of national reconciliation, 1 tribal division, 8 regiments, 30 battalions and 4 independent units with a total number of more than 17,000 persons have been newly established. A total of 28,300 has been added to the number of personnel of the aforementioned forces during this period. They total more than 40,000.

The units and companies of the regional forces have carried out joint combat operations in cooperation with the bodies of Armed Forces to ensure peaceful living conditions for the people and to implement the aims of national reconciliation. They have undertaken combat operations independently against the extremists. During the current year, they have taken part in 58 joint combat operations and 220 independent combat operations and have carried out more than 200 ambushes. As a result of these activities, a large number of the enemy's weapons and vehicles have been seized, a number of extremists elements have been crushed, and a number have been arrested.

The regional forces have foiled more than 150 enemy attacks during the current year. They have protected and escorted more than 300 supply convoys. And they have taken active part in the expansion and consolidation of the people's power in the localities.

The regional forces attached to the Ministry of Defense have provided security for more than 1,200 villages and have liberated 150 villages from the hands of the extremists elements. They have ensured security for 33 administrative units and 794 km of public road on the Kabul-Aybak highway and the Qandahar-Towraghondi road.

They have provided security for 109 schools, 7 factories, 83 consumer and agriculture cooperatives, and 6 hospitals. A number of the regional forces have carried out effective work on establishing contacts with groups and bands and making them interested in the revolutionary power. During the last year, more than 4,670 persons with 592 light weapons, 32 machine guns, and 20 rocket launchers have surrendered to regional forces.

If we look at the characteristics of the regional forces from the viewpoint of traditions and the national historical precedent in our country, we see that whenever aggression has taken place against our land, then heroically, with self-sacrifice, the great masses of the people have organized and engaged in stubborn resistance against foreign aggression. Inevitably you, during the few days that you are here in Kabul, have seen the photos of national personalities of our country, among them the photographs of Muhammad Jan Khan Ghazi Wardag and Mola Mosk Alam.

They, and dozens and hundreds of others, are the heroes of our country who, during the British colonialists' aggression in Afghanistan, came out from the masses of the people, headed the popular forces, and defended their sacred soil, national honor and people against the greatest colonialist and imperialist power of the time. Shoulder to shoulder with the organized Armed Forces they struggled against the British and defended their villages, houses, and homeland, and hoisted the flag of Afghanistan. We look to you too, who are heading the units, in that way.

Under these conditions, when you work and struggle, your important duty is to use your combat activity for the expansion and consolidation of the popular pillars of state power and administration. It should be stated with regret that the conscription plans and call up plans have not been executed. There is even evidence that a number of units and companies in the regions protect defectors from service in the Army and there are those who evade service in the Armed Forces.

The level of investigation among those responsible for conscription and call up by some of the regional commanders is low, and joint efforts between them and other organs who are responsible, is weak. If the results of your work are such, the units and companies of Armed Forces cannot be brought up to strength and we cannot speak about readiness to carry out combat activities against the enemies of the people and independent combat activity by the units of our Armed Forces.

One possibility that helps to bring the Armed Forces up to strength quickly is the transformation of the regional units and companies into regular units of the Army and the people's militia. So far a number of regional units have been transformed into regular units of the Armed Forces. This year that number has reached seven units totalling 2,650 personnel. These units take an active part in the consolidation of state sovereignty in the localities and they execute other tasks.

Let us take as an example a brigade in Konduz. This unit was formed in 1986-1987 as a regional unit to maintain the security of the power line of Shir Khan Port and Konduz and to consolidate state power in Archi District, Emam Saheb and Qal'eh-ye Zal. It carried these tasks out very well. It has taken part in seven joint operations, seven independent operations and two [word indistinct] in transporting convoys during the 9 months of this year.

It has undertaken defense operations against the enemy six times and as a result of this activity has crushed 10 of the enemy, captured a number of them as well as 109 weapons.

It has conscripted 677 people. Its commanders, Samunyar, Rahim Pahlawan and the personnel of the brigade, are struggling sincerely for the realization of the policy of national reconciliation. During the current year this unit has been transformed into a people's militia regular unit. Some time ago as a result of the worthy activity of the unit, 41 of its personnel were awarded the medals of D8 for good Army service.

On the other hand there are regional units who so far, not only have not taken part in active operations, but have not paid attention even to bringing up the strength of its personnel.

Comrades, one other matter which I would like to speak to you about is the advancement of political work in your units and companies.

If political work is not being done in your units, then the enemy will infiltrate your units and they will be affected by poisonous enemy propaganda. Then they will either start subversive activities or defect. We know the causes of defection from the Army—the influence which is enjoyed by some traitors in the regional forces; the attitude of a number of commanders and soldiers; the lack of attention to the timely supply of provisions; and salaries and other privileges for personnel. [Word indistinct] in the worsening of the personal problems of soldiers and the low level of demands and interrogation of the incumbents.

Comrades, military experts say discipline is the soul of the Armed Forces. But discipline is to be ensured on the basis of conscious relations, not on the grounds of repression and in an atmosphere of oppression. It is to be on the basis of mutual trust, friendly relations, and on the basis of political awareness of personnel, deep understanding of their military duties, loyalty to the cause of the revolution and the policy of national reconciliation, and individual responsibility for the fulfillment of duties.

Regrettably, discipline in our regional units and contingents has not developed to a laudable level. The consolidation of your units to enable the discharge of duties and orders and eventually victory over enemy, and the maintenance of discipline among the personnel, is your major duty.

We have not resorted to arms to oppress the people, but we should treat them in a humane and correct way. We have to be kind to them and help them. Your behavior with people, with your sisters, fathers and children must be enormously kind and compassionate. You should rally your forces for peaceful work among the people and embark on the establishment of party cells, cooperatives, the resuscitation of schools, and the distribution of aid among the people. In this way the people will trust you and they will consider you their guardians and the people who ensure their tranquility and peace.

You should ensure revolutionary legality within your jurisdiction and familiarize the personnel of your units with the Constitution and other laws and regularize their deeds in line with the requirements of the laws.

Another issue which I would like to mention is that cooperation and friendly relations among a number of units have not yet been ensured. I would like to say if you are united and monolithic you will transform your areas into regions of peace in a very short time.

Comrades and friends, the professional training of personnel is another duty which rests on you commanders. Because the establishment of the authority of soldiers on the use of their arms and equipment is possible as a result of the practical work in the process of their professional training. I believe that the fate of the war operations are being determined by training centers because no war operation can lead to victory unless the necessary preparations for its fulfillment are made. We look with concern to the regional forces from the point of view of war and political training.

A number of commanders do not pay any attention to this matter, do not draw the attention of soldiers to the acquisition of political and professional knowledge and do not nurture their talents. Another issue is that a number of commanders do not know the number and the position of their personnel, weapons, and equipment and there is even evidence that arms which they have obtained for maintaining peace and defending the security of the people are sometimes given to enemy elements.

Afghans say that arms are like their honor. You must preserve your arms and make maximum use of them. The defects in this respect are the lack of regular arms depots, weak control over arms and ammunitions, the low level of demands on commanders—obviously on the low ranking commanders—and the lack of attention and carelessness of a number of commanders about the preservation of arms and ammunition by soldiers.

How can coordination and unity of action be ensured between the regional forces and other organs of the Armed Forces? Implementing this matter is connected with how the fighters of the regional forces conceive the aims of revolution and the necessity of defending it and the policy of national reconciliation. The only way to attain this goal is through persistent political work and observation of protocols in a determined way.

You know that agricultural production is the main part of our country's national income. The activities of the regional units in this respect are of the utmost importance. Every unit in your area should, as an economic unit, organize multifaceted work. Productive cooperatives is to be expanded in the villages. Your and your unit's role in this regard is worthy.

Rally and attract the personnel of your units to peaceful work. Implementing these goals requires your multifarious and tireless work with the people of your jurisdiction. The people of your jurisdiction cannot be attracted to such activities unless friendly relations are being established with them.

You should know where the people of the area of your responsibility live and under what circumstances. You should know the characteristics of the place and its inhabitants in detail. Know the most trustworthy, the most honest, and the most influential elders of the locality. Get close to them. Utilize their experience. Participate in their happiness and sorrow and bravely and publicly establish contacts with the armed groups and the neutral groups and those who are inclined to follow the national reconciliation policy.

Our policy is totally clear. We follow it persistently. We have chosen the way of peace, tranquility, and security for our people and we go forward along this road—the way of peace, freedom, prosperity, security, and progress; the independence of the country; the way to people's welfare; the way which enables people to live in certainty and see their families happy and their children prosperous.

This is our way, the way of prosperity for our people and our children and youths. But bear in mind this way is not an easy one. It is full of ups and downs and full of

hardships and problems. We should get through it. Therefore, national reconciliation wants devoted people and sacrificing, brave, patriotic people. We should overcome problems and ensure peace and security in our country in the shortest possible time.

Bangladesh

Health Minister Resigns Over Elections

BK211358 Hong Kong AFP in English 1350 GMT 21 Jan 88

[Text] Dhaka, Jan 21 (AFP)—Health and Family Planning Minister Salahuddin Kader Chowdhury resigned Thursday and President Hussain Mohammad Ershad has accepted the resignation, a presidential spokesman said.

The spokesman Toab Khan told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE that Mr Chowdhury had resigned and the president has accepted the resignation. He declined to give the reasons for the resignation.

Informed sources said Mr Chowdhury had sent his resignation to cabinet secretary in which he said that he differed on the question of the decision by the ruling Jatiya Party to go ahead with parliamentary elections.

"I have decided not to take part in elections though I have been nominated by the party... Therefore, I think it appropriate to resign from the cabinet," the sources quoted Mr Chowdhury as saying.

Mr Chowdhury was not immediately available for comment.

This is the second such resignation by a cabinet minister within four weeks. On December 26, Finance Minister Mr M. Syeduzzaman resigned for personal reasons.

Second Minister Resigns

BK220302 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 22 Jan 88

[Text] News agency reports from Dhaka say that two cabinet ministers have resigned following differences with President Ershad over the coming parliamentary elections. They are the health minister, Mr Salahuddin Kader Chowdhury, and the information minister, Mr Anwar Zahid. The resignations come within a month after the finance minister, Mr Syeduzzaman, quit the government.

Hundreds of home-made bombs exploded in Dhaka and other cities on the 2d day of the latest general strike by the opposition. There are no reports of any casualties so far.

Opposition Program Termed 'Complete Failure'

BK220255 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0110 GMT 22 Jan 88

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister and Jatiya Party Secretary General Shah Moazzam Hussain has said the people have ignored the opposition program and everything functioned normally all over the country except with some deviation in some big cities. Talking to BSS at the party office in Dhaka yesterday evening, he said the people of all strata have completely rejected the opposition program, which he termed as complete failure.

Sheikh Hasina Comments on Ershad Government

BK211550 Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 19 Jan 88 pp 1, 8

[Excerpt] Awami-League chief and leader of the eight-party alliance Sheikh Hasina on Monday said that in the greater interest of the united movement and to establish democracy and rule of law in the country by removing the present regime she was ready to go for "not only one platform, if necessary on leadership."

Exchanging views with journalists representing the national and foreign newspapers and news media at her Dhanmandi residence, Sheikh Hasina said that her party had always fought for establishing the democratic rights of the people and "we are ready to make sacrifice to carry forward the present mass movement." She observed that mere slogan for one platform would not help the movement unless "we have the common objective and commitment to end the process of repeated martial laws and to ensure change of government by ballot not by bullet."

The Awami League leader said that the mainstream Opposition alliances were united in the movement to remove the present autocratic regime and establish democracy in the country. She asserted that any conspiracy to create division among the three alliances would be foiled.

Reiterating the stand of her party and alliance to boycott the election under President Ershad she announced, "All attempts to hold any 'farcical election' without the participation of the main opposition parties and the common people will be resisted."

Referring to President Ershad's interview with a Bengali daily where he said that if necessary he would hold presidential election, Sheikh Hasina said that the nation would not accept any election under his government.

She said that her party participated in the Parliament election last year as she always believed in change of government through ballot, but, she added, "the present government changed the verdict of the people by media

coup." She pointed out that by participating in the election her alliance exposed the real character of the present government which had lost all credibility within and outside the country.

Sheikh Hasina said that the people of the country did not want any election from President Ershad but they demanded his resignation.

Reiterating her commitment to ensure rule of law, freedom of press, and fundamental rights, Sheikh Hasina said that if her party and alliance was voted to power she would repeal all black laws. She said that the professional groups would be free to exercise their democratic rights. [passage omitted]

India

Roundup of Gandhi Activities in Pakistan

BK201615 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 20 Jan 88

[Excerpts] The Frontier Gandhi, Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan, died in Peshawar this morning. The octogenarian freedom fighter was in coma for the last several months. His body will be taken to Jalalabad in Afghanistan for burial on Friday.

The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, delayed his departure to Sweden and flew to Peshawar to pay his last respects to the Frontier Gandhi. [passage omitted]

Later, Mr Gandhi drove to the house of the governor of the Frontier Province [of Pakistan] and spoke to the Pakistan prime minister, Mr Junejo, on phone. As Mr Gandhi left Pakistan, he thanked President Ziaul Haq for the opportunity provided to him to pay his last respects to Badshah Khan. In a message he said we are neighbors bound together by many ties of history, geography, and tradition. He extended his good wishes to the people of Pakistan for peace, progress, and prosperity.

The vice president, Dr Shanker Dayal Sharma, will lead a 12-member delegation to Afghanistan to attend the burial of Badshah Khan. The delegation will leave for Kabul tomorrow and will later go to Jalalabad. It will include the union minister, Mr H.K.L. Bhagat; the Jammu and Kashmir chief minister, Dr Faruq Abdullah; and the veteran freedom fighters, Mr Gulzari Lal Nanda, Mrs Aruna Asif Ali, Professor N.G. Ranga, and Mr Mohammad Yunus.

BJP Leader, 10 Others Gunned Down in Punjab

BK220757 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 22 Jan 88

[Text] In Punjab, 11 persons, including the vice president of the BJP unit, were gunned down by terrorists in two separate incidents this morning. The vice president of BJP unit, Mr Khushi Ram Sharma, was shot dead by two scooter-borne terrorists in Ludhiana.

In Barnala town of Sangrur District, 10 persons were shot dead and 1 seriously injured when 6 terrorists opened indiscriminate fire on a group of people in a park. Two persons were also shot dead and two injured by terrorists in separate incidents in Amritsar and Gurdaspur Districts last night.

'Red Alert' Follows Killings

BK221249 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 22 Jan 88

[Text] The center has alerted all the neighboring states [of Punjab] to further strengthen security measures following today's killings in Punjab. According to official sources, the home minister, Mr Somiah, today reviewed the law and order situation in Punjab and other neighboring areas with senior officials of his ministry and the law enforcing authorities.

In Delhi, security forces have been placed on red alert in view of intelligence reports that some terrorists have sneaked into the capital to create panic. All entry points to Delhi are being patrolled.

2 'Terrorists' Shot Dead by Punjab Security

BK210302 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 21 Jan 88

[Text] In Punjab, two terrorists were shot dead by security forces in an encounter in Mand area in Amritsar District yesterday afternoon. The district police chief, Mr Mohammad Izhar Alam, told AIR Amritsar correspondent that there was no casualty on the side of the security forces. One self-loading rifle and 200 rounds of ammunition were recovered.

43 Gurkha Activists Arrested; Ambush Reported

BK201351 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 20 Jan 88

[Text] In West Bengal, police today arrested 43 GNLF [Gurkha National Liberation Front] activists, including 8 under the Antiterrorist Act, in raids conducted at Darjeeling and Kurseong subdivisions. The DIG [Deputy Inspector General] of police, Darjeeling range, told our Kurseong correspondent that GNLF men ambushed and fired at the police at Pur Bazaar. One GNLF activist was killed when police returned the fire. The police later unearthed a bomb-making factory and recovered explosive materials.

Soviet Nuclear Submarine on Loan for Training

OW210315 Tokyo KYODO in English 0150 GMT 21 Jan 88

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 21 KYODO—A Soviet nuclear-powered submarine believed to have been loaned to India has sailed down the Sea of Japan from Vladivostok in the Soviet Far East for India, Western military sources in Tokyo said Thursday.

The Soviet Union said early this month that a Soviet nuclear-powered submarine would be loaned to India for training purposes. The Soviets said it would carry no nuclear weapons.

The submarine is believed to be the first nuclear-powered vessel to be provided by the Soviet Union to another country. The Soviet Union also provided MIG-29 fighters to India last year.

The sources believe the vessel loaned to India is a "Charlie I" class cruise missile submarine with a displacement of about 5,000 tons, an "outdated" model built between 1967 and 1972.

With the loaned submarine, India has become the second country in Asia, following China, to possess a nuclear-powered submarine.

The sources also believe India wanted the Soviet nuclear-powered submarine to use as a basis for building a similar vessel.

Pranab Mukherjee-Led Party To Join Congress-I

BK210431 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 20 Jan 88

[Text] The Rashtriya Samajwadi Congress [Party] led by the former finance minister, Mr Pranab Mukherjee, has decided to join the Congress-I. The decision was taken at a meeting of the Party's working committee in New Delhi today. Briefing newsmen, Mr Mukherjee said there is no alternative to the Congress-I in the present situation.

Japanese Communist Party Delegation Ends Visit

OW210551 Tokyo KYODO in English 0432 GMT 21 Jan 88

[Text] New Delhi, Jan. 21 KYODO—A Japan Communist Party delegation led by Vice Chairman Tetsuzo Fuwa left for Denmark Thursday ending an eight-day visit to India at the invitation of the Communist Party of India-Marxist.

The Japanese delegation met General Secretary E.M. Saukaran Namboodiripad and other Indian Communist leaders while in New Delhi.

The Japanese and Indian Communists issued a joint communique Wednesday calling for support of nonaligned movements, promotion of total nuclear disarmament and mutual noninterference in each other party affairs, a delegation spokesman said.

The Japanese delegation is visiting Denmark at the invitation of the Socialist People's Party. It will return to Tokyo on January 26.

PATRIOT Interviews Communist Party Chief

BK191530 Delhi PATRIOT in English 9 Jan 88 p 4

[Text] "The need of the ruling classes for economic and technological aid from the West occupies an important place in the West's strategy for weakening our policy of nonalignment." The warning came from CPI-M General Secretary E.M.S Namboodiripad during an interview with PATRIOT.

While stating that "India's positive role in the Nonaligned Movement continues as a major factor in world politics", the veteran Communist leader cautioned: "Imperialism is doing all that is possible to weaken it. Our peace movement therefore has to be vigilant."

On problems with China, he said: "The Government of India and the ruling party will have to take courage to break out of the rigidities which are their own creation."

Following is the text of the interview:

[Question] How would you assess the progress over the last three years in the pursuit of the Government's declared policy of improving and normalising relations with the neighbours, in particular (a) Pakistan, (b) Bangladesh, (c) China?

[Answer] There has been no improvement in the implementation of the declared policy of normalising relations with Pakistan and Bangladesh. The main reason for the lack of progress in relation to Pakistan is the fact that the USA is deliberately egging Pakistan on to continue its confrontation with India.

In relation to China, however, there has been some improvement; but the progress is too slow. The anti-China hysteria worked up earlier by the Congress party with the support of most of the Opposition parties on the demand "no square inch of territory to China", gives no room for purposeful negotiations on a give-and-take basis. The Government of India and the ruling party will have to take courage to break out of the rigidities which are their own creation.

[Question] How, in your opinion, have the peace accord with Sri Lanka and the IPKF [Indian Peacekeeping Force] operations in the island served the interests and the image of the country in international affairs?

[Answer] The India-Sri Lanka accord has, without doubt, enhanced the image of the country in that our good offices are being used to solve the ethnic problem in Sri Lanka. It will help our country's own security, too, provided the accord is faithfully implemented.

This has not been done adequately, for which the intransigence of the LTTE, together with the dragging of feet by the Sri Lankan authorities in the implementation of the accord, are by and large responsible.

[Question] What, in your opinion, have been the major developments influencing the country's relations with the USSR and the US? Do you perceive major shifts in India's foreign policy framework?

[Answer] The major development in Indo-USSR relations has been their further strengthening, not only bilaterally but through the six-nation initiatives on questions of nuclear war.

As for the USA, its continuous backing for the Pakistani military rulers has proved the main obstacle for improvement.

[Question] Has India's rol in the Nonaligned Movement, in your opinion, been strengthened in this period?

[Answer] India's positive role in the Nonaligned Movement continues as a major factor in world politics. Imperialism is doing all that is possible to weaken it. Our peace movement, therefore, has to be vigilant.

The need of the ruling classes for economic and technological aid from the West occupies an important place in the West's strategy for weakening our policy of nonalignment.

[Question] How do you assess India's initiatives in the cause of world peace and disarmament?

[Answer] India's initiatives are an important factor in the worldwide movement for peace and disarmament.

Domestically Built Planes Given to Air Force

BK200741 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0630 GMT 20 Jan 88

[Text] The latest batch of deep penetrating fighter Jaguar aircraft has been handed over to the Indian Air Force. The Defense Minister, Mr K.C. Pant, handed over the aircraft indigenously built by the Bangalore complex of the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited to the Chief of Air Staff, Air Marshal De Lafontaine, at Bangalore today. Speaking on the occasion, Mr Pant said that the country is well-equipped to meet the defense requirements.

Space Organization Chief on IRS 1-A Satellite

BK170617 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 16 Jan 88

[Text] The remote sensing satellite, IRS 1-A, is scheduled to be launched from the Baikanour cosmodrome in the Soviet Union some time in March. The chairman of the Indian Space Research Organization, ISRO, Dr U.R. Rao, speaks about the achievements of previous Indian satellites. He also gave details about IRS 1-A:

[Begin recording] Together with the data which are regularly being received from Landsat series of satellites and of [word indistinct] satellites, these data have been utilized, while essentially providing vital inputs into various operational services in the country, such as the inventorying and monitoring of forestry, looking at our agricultural program, looking at mineral resources in the country, [word indistinct] wasteland, underground water targeting. I am now coming up with an integrated plan at district level to monitor and tackle drought on a short as well as a long-term basis.

Thus, remote sensing has become a vital part of Indian development. The first of IRS series is IRS 1-A, which has been fully integrated in (?Delsat) and is to be airlifted by the third week of January to the cosmodrome at Baikanour in USSR for launching. It will go through a 45-day preparation at the launch pad and is expected to be launched by the end of March of this year.

The IRS 1-A spacecraft weighs approximately 950 kgs and has two sets of cameras. One set of cameras providing imagery with a resolution of 72 meters and the second set providing with a resolution of 36 meters, which is almost the same as the present Landsat series. Each has a (?square width), that is in each part it covers 140 kilometers width, and it will be launched into a sun-synchronous polar orbit at a height of 904 kilometers. [end recording]

Aid to Pakistan Nuclear Program Criticized

BK211519 Delhi General Overseas English 1010 GMT 21 Jan 88

[By political commentator S.C. Bhatt: "Nonproliferation Mocked"]

[Text] American agencies are known to be well informed about what goes on in the rest of the world. The mighty CIA and several research foundations in Washington long ago came to the conclusion that Pakistan is only a screw driver turn away from the bomb. Some of these knowledgeable people also told us that Pakistan has a bomb in basement. When we in the outside world could get an inkling of what the American agencies had found out, one can be sure that the privileged people in Washington must have known the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth.

To put any lingering doubts in the White House at rest, Pakistan provided unwittingly, of course, irrefutable evidence of its nuclear weapon program. A Pakistani with a Canadian connection, Arshad Pervez, was caught by the American investigating agencies on American soil in the act of stealing nuclear weapons-grade steel from the United States. As his trial proceeded, the Capitol Hill, the seat of the American Congress, went through the motions of stopping the flow of massive American aid—economic and military—to Islamabad. The Reagan administration also made some noises. After all, what was happening right on the American soil could not be wished away even if it concerned a close military ally and a guardian of American interest in the Gulf like Pakistan.

Then the State Department in Washington dutifully placed the Pervez file before the President. Pervez had in the meantime been convicted by a federal court in Philadelphia of the offenses he was charged with and was awaiting sentence which could mean anything from 15 to 35 years in prison. The U.S. State Department told Mr Reagan in the plainest terms a diplomatic outfit could employ that it was not merely a case of smuggling by an unfortunate Arshad Pervez. He was only a front man for Islamabad, which needed the materials for its bomb project.

The Pakistani nuclear weapons program has been built on the solid foundation of stolen designs and smuggled fuel. Thanks to the average of American and West European supplies or the lethargy or connivance of the administrations in these countries, this stealing and smuggling has gone on for a long time.

Recently, some shocking information has come from West Germany in this connection. Not surprisingly, Mr Reagan ignored the State Department's note to him and signed waivers of his country's laws banning aid to nations engaged in the dangerous game of making the bomb. Quoting overriding national security interests, the American President signed the waivers and gave the green signal for the flow of economic and military aid to Islamabad. Mr Reagan virtually said: I see no evil. I hear no evil.

On top of a recently concluded 6-year aid package, Washington has now begun yet another 6-year aid program amounting to more than $4 billion to a country which faces no real threat from any quarter. Its military build-up is only to hold out a threat to India, its next door neighbor. The bomb project is likewise meant to intimidate India. The Pakistani ruling elite for all its (?provocations) and sophistry is all the time motivated by the urge to settle scores with India for the role this country played in the liberation of Bangladesh more than 16 years ago.

Bangladesh, then a part of Pakistan, had revolted against the terrible repression let loose by the military regime of General Yahya Khan in Islamabad. Instead of realizing the folly of their ways, the rulers in Islamabad have blamed India for the dismemberment of their country. They have aided and abeted the terrorists in Punjab for the same reason of wreaking vengeance on this country.

Pakistan's military build-up, free of cost for Islamabad, thanks to American generosity, imposes a heavy burden on India. New Delhi has to spend the hard earned money of the Indian people to keep itself in good trim to face any military adventure from across the border. The nuclear bomb project of Pakistan likewise strains India's peaceful nuclear program. Since 1974, when India exploded a nuclear device, there has been no explosion, and India has persisted with the peaceful applications of nuclear energy and built up a major nuclear base.

Washington has been repeatedly told of India's concerns. It has also been told of the danger of aiding and abetting the nuclear designs of a regime bent on revenge and hegemony. Washington has also been reminded of its nuclear nonproliferation professions.

The Reagan administration has thrown all these professions to the wind, closed its eyes to the evidence produced by its own State Department, and ignored India's concerns. In the name of America's national security half way round the globe, Washington is giving massive economic and military aid to Pakistan and, thus, is aiding and abetting President Ziaul Haq's nuclear bomb program.

Iran

Khamene'i Gives Friday Prayers Sermon in Tehran

LD221426 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 22 Jan 88

[Text] We begin the news of this hour with a report on the remarks made by Hojjat ol-Eslam val Moslemin Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i at today's Friday prayers sermon in Tehran. Commenting on the intellectual roots and the parameters of authority and power for the Velayat-e Faqih [vice-regency of jurisconsult], as well as the rule of an Islamic ruler over an Islamic society, Hojjat ol-Eslam val Moslemin Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i stated: The question of rule is among the most important and fundamental of Islamic questions under an Islamic system. From the standpoint of Islam, individuals cannot rule over one another; the true ruler over mankind is God. The manifestation of God's rule over mankind is the prophets; in their absence, it is those acting as their successors; and in their absence, the jurisconsults of the ummah and experts on religion. The Friday prayer leader of Tehran referred to the persecution to which the immaculate imams were subjected during their lives under oppressive rulers as a result of the issue of the rule of the imams. If the imams had no claim to rule, then they would not have been persecuted by the caliphs. He said: During the period of the occultation, the chief jurisconsult has the same status as the ruler. This is the intellectual root and foundation of Islamic rule. The Velayat-e Faqih and the chief jurisconsult administer and lead society on the basis of Islam. In those areas wherein the chief jurisconsult distinguishes between Islamic and social interests, and issues instructions in accordance with what he deems proper, then that instruction is God's command and a religious order. By relying on his judgment and reasoning or on religious evidence, the chief jurisconsult deems a certain issue to be in the best interest of society and acts upon it. This is God's command, and this command is obligatory for everyone.

The Tehran Friday prayer leader stressed that all things that fall within the sphere of the authority of legislative, executive, and judicial bodies are manifestations of the rule of the jurisconsult. All these bodies owe their legitimacy to their association and link with the chief

jurisconsult; otherwise, even the legislative body has no right to enact laws on its own. He added: In reality, the legislative and executive bodies owe their legitimacy to their reliance on, and to the authority of, the chief jurisconsult; the latter is like a soul within the body of the system. He emphasized: Islamic law, which is the criterion, basis, and framework of the laws of society, owes its validity to the acceptance and approval of the Velayat-e Faqih. Otherwise, what right do the representatives of the Assembly of Experts have to draw up a constitution? And what right do the majority of people have to endorse the constitution and consider it binding? The person who has the right to sign the constitution is the chief jurisconsult. He has been empowered by divine rule inherited by the prophet and the immaculate imam. Even the Islamic Republic order itself owes its legitimacy to the chief jurisconsult, and it is the chief jurisconsult who establishes the Islamic Republic order and makes people follow it.

On the occasion of the eve of the 10 Days of Dawn, the president referred to the historical day of 11 February. He said: The reawakening of Islam and the establishment of Islamic rule in one of the most sensitive regions of the world, and the fact that Iran's nation has been dragged into the struggle in the arena of the great powers, are all among the blessings of 11 February. This day must be one of the greatest feasts in the history of Islam because it carries the marks of the 'Id al-Fitr, 'Id al-Qurban, 'Id al-Ghadir, and Eyd-e Nowruz. By honoring this great day, people will deliver it, radiant and lively, to the next generation.

The chairman of the Supreme Defense Council then referred to the defeated policy of the United States in the Persian Gulf region. He stated: After that great military expedition to the Persian Gulf, the United States has now decided to withdraw; this is something that we had predicted. Today, too, we are witnessing how those Western countries, who supported the United States and entered the Persian Gulf with such a hue and cry, are now leaving the Persian Gulf, one after another, quietly. From the start, this expedition was clearly doomed to fail. Its defeat is evident and clear to all the people of the world. The thing that has remained in the global arena after so much sensation is the power of the revolution and of the people of Iran, as well as the world's realization that a religious and revolutionary nation will not sit back in the face of the clamors of world powers. He stressed that the most constructive point in all of this is that our neighbors in the Persian Gulf have realized that they cannot safeguard the security of the Persian Gulf by supporting Iraq. The only way is for the countries of the Gulf to bring pressure to bear on the element causing insecurity—the Iraqi regime—so that it will not create tension in the Persian Gulf. We see that some of these countries are behaving in a more realistic manner and wish to negotiate with Iran.

The chairman of the Supreme Defense Council then referred to the recent glorious victories of the combatants of Islam on the western and northwestern fronts. He said: It is a very valuable thing that our young people are fighting so devotedly in the snow-covered mountainous region and are delivering continuous blows to the enemy since the start of the "Bayt ol-Moqaddas-2" operations. This policy of delivering continuous blows must continue.

With regard to the plan by world statesmen for an arms boycott, which shows how wrong they are in their assessment of the people of Iran and their lack of understanding of the Iranian nation, he remarked: The arms boycott is nothing new to the Islamic Republic of Iran. We have been in a state of boycott for several years now, and the West and the East, who have been giving facilities and arms to the Iraqi regime, have not helped us with regard to arms. These days, we are producing many of the sophisticated weapons inside the country, and in spite of everything we shall acquire whatever is needed for the Islamic Republic of Iran. We shall deliver our continuous blows to the body of the regime of Saddam, one after another, until the fall of that regime.

In the Friday sermons, Mr Khamene'i expressed his congratulations and condolences on the martyrdom of Hojjat ol-Eslam Seyyed Mahdi al-Hakim by the mercenaries of the Iraqi regime to all the strugglers of the Iraqi nation, especially the distressed house of the Grand Ayatollah Hakim. He called on the Government of Sudan to identify the offenders and punish them.

Iraqi Activist's Body Arrives in Tehran
LD211942 Tehran IRNA in English 1850 GMT 21 Jan 88

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 21, IRNA—The body of Hojjat ol-Eslam Seyyed Mahdi al-Hakim martyred at the hands of Iraqi Ba'thist agents in the Sudanese capital last Sunday was brought here today evening.

Hoj. Mahdi al-Hakim who had travelled to Khartoum from London to attend an Islamic conference, was gunned down by two security agents of Iraq's murderous Ba'thist regime at his hotel. Hoj. al-Hakim's associate Dr. Halim 'Abd al-Wahhab was also attacked but was lucky to escape with injuries.

'Abd al-Wahhab brought the martyr's body to Tehran on a special plane chartered by the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq (SAIRI) where a delegation from President 'Ali Khamene'i, several Foreign Ministry officials and other Iranian authorities as well as Iraqi opposition figures paid tribute to the martyr.

'Abd al-Wahhab told IRNA at the airport that Hoj. al-Hakim had gone to Khartoum at the formal invitation of Sudan's Islamic National Front.

Said he, "While I and Hoj. Mahdi al-Hakim were talking in the hotel lobby, two terrorists armed with Colts approached us and suddenly pumped five bullets at us. Three bullets hit Hoj. al-Hakim martyring him on the spot, while the other two hit me, one in the foot and the other in the chest."

Mahdi al-Hakim was the 21st member of the late Grand Ayatollah Mohsen al-Hakim's household to be martyred by the ungodly Ba'thist regime of Iraq.

He had left Iraq some 18 years ago when the Ba'thists seized power in that Muslim country. After initially moving to Pakistan he first settled in Dubayy (UAE) and later made London his exile, where at the time of his martyrdom he was heading the Ahl al-Bayt foundation—an Islamic institute.

Funeral processing for the martyred Al-Hakim will be held in Ark Mosque (Tehran) at 08:30 (05:00 GMT) Saturday and his body will be buried later the same day in the holy city of Qom.

Head of the SAIRI Hojjat ol-Eslam Muhammad-Baqir al-Hakim who was also present at the airport confirmed that his martyred brother had left London for Khartoum at the formal invitation of Sudan's Islamic National Front.

SAIRI had sent a political delegation to the Sudanese capital Wednesday to investigate the issue. Commander of the SAIRI's military unit Abu 'Ali al-Mawla was one of the delegates who said the team held talks with Sudan's Premier al-Sadiq al-Mahdi and other officials.

He said the Sudanese premier had expressed sympathy over the martyrdom of Hoj. Mahdi al-Hakim and promised to carry out necessary investigations to trace the assassins. Al-Mahdi had assured he would inform SAIRI officials the results of the probe over the next few days, he added.

Ceremonies were also held at Khartoum Airport for paying homage to the martyred Hojjat ol-Eslam in which some Sudanese officials took part.

Demonstrations, Condolences

LD211032 Tehran IRNA in English 1010 GMT 21 Jan 88

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 21, IRNA—Muslims from various parts of the world marked martyrdom of prominent Iraqi opposition leader Hojjat ol-Eslam Mahdi al-Hakim, who was assassinated by Iraqi agents in Sudan, through staging demonstrations, sending messages of condolences and holding memorial ceremonies, Thursday.

In Paris, Iraqi Muslims residing in France cabled a message to Sudanese Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, calling on him to sever Sudan's diplomatic relations with Iraq in condemnation of the crime.

The message also urged Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi to express sympathy with the Iraqi Muslim people in their confrontation with the Ba'thist regime ruling Iraq.

Martyr Hojjat ol-Eslam Mahdi al-Hakim, elder brother of the head of Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq (SAIRI) was shot dead by some Iraqi assassins at Khartoum's Hilton Hotel Sunday. The assailants later fled in a car with an Iraqi diplomatic plate.

Various world Muslim liberation movements including the Islamic Coalition Council of Afghanistan, Afghanistan's Islamic Alliance and various Islamic associations of India, Pakistan and Thailand strongly castigated the crime in separate statements released on Thursday.

Meanwhile, Secretary-General of the Central Committee of Iraq's Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) Mas'ud Barzani, prime minister's liaison with Friday prayer leaders and Imam Khomeyni's representative to the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps cabled Hojjat ol-Eslam Adab, sent messages to the SAIRI head, expressing deep condolences.

Iran's embassy in Damascus held a ceremony at the holy shrine of Hadrat Zaynab (AS), the grand daughter of Prophet Muhammad (SAW) to commemorate the martyrdom of Hojjat ol-Eslam Mahdi al-Hakim, Wednesday night.

Present at the ceremony were Iranian ambassadors to Syria and Lebanon, Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Hasan Akhtari and Ahmad Dastmalchian, an official of Lebanon's Hizballah group 'Abbas Musawi, and a number of other religious and political figures from Iraq, Pakistan, Afghanistan and India.

Tehran Comments on Situation in Afghanistan

LD211402 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1113 GMT 21 Jan 88

[Political commentary: "Current Developments in Afghanistan and Compromising Talks on the Afghan Question"]

[Text] On the eve of a new round of talks in Geneva on the Afghan problem, the leaders of Afghanistan's Muslim groups have announced that they will not be meeting with Diego Cordovez, the UN mediator, who arrived in Islamabad yesterday. While condemning any sort of compromise over the Afghan crisis, the country's revolutionary Muslims declared: The Geneva talks were designed to let the Soviets use political means to achieve what they could not attain through 8 years of war in Afghanistan.

At the same time, the Muslim revolutionaries of Afghanistan, continuing the intense clashes in the suburbs of Khowst in Paktia Province, have downed another MIG fighter-bomber belonging to the armed forces of the

Kabul regime. While bringing us this piece of information, a correspondent for the Central News Unit in Islamabad adds: The total number of Kabul fighter-bombers downed in the Khowst region in the past few months is now 15. For their part, news agencies report that the airport in Khowst has come under rocket attack from revolutionary Muslims, who sought to expose the weakening hold which the Kabul regime and the Soviet forces have over this city in eastern Afghanistan. This comes at a time of continuing attacks by joint Soviet and Afghan forces against other regions of Afghanistan, including Qandahar in the south of that country.

According to political observers, the heavy and extensive attacks by the Soviet and Afghan forces in eastern and southern Afghanistan show that the Kabul regime, following an agreement between the two superpowers on the Afghan issue, wants to strengthen its position on the eve of a new round of compromising talks on the Afghan issue, which is to begin in Geneva next month.

Afghanistan's Muslim revolutionaries are fully aware of the conspiracy hatched by world arrogance to use their struggles for independence and liberation as a bargaining chip. Having noted these pressures, they are determined to spread their resistance to the eastern regions and prevent the expansion of military operations between the unequal forces of the Kabul regime and the occupying power on one hand, and the Afghan revolutionaries on the other, thus defeating the policy in question.

The military onslaught against Afghanistan's border regions by the Kabul regime in the past few months has produced deaths and injuries among Afghan refugees and Pakistanis on the other side of the frontier. Despite this, it appears that the government and people of Pakistan, who have shown their goodwill and grace toward the Afghan refugees, and have tolerated the pressures arising from Najib's military operations against the border and their inescapable economic problems, will not allow the Muslim people of Afghanistan to become a bargaining chip. They will not let them become a bargaining chip in the process of compromise between East and West, especially at this critical time in the Islamic ummah's struggles against imperialism and arrogance.

Diego Cordovez, the UN mediator who began his mission in 1982, made a statement of the eve of his trip to Islamabad and Kabul to discuss the Afghan issue. He said that if his negotiations produce an agreement on a timetable for the withdrawal of Soviet forces from Afghanistan, it will be possible to clearly forecast a solution to the crisis. Cordovez is visiting Kabul and Islamabad to prepare for the new round of negotiations, and has expressed optimism about the prospects for reaching an agreement on a schedule for a Soviet pullout from Afghanistan. Nevertheless, he has reportedly run into many problems in conducting talks with leaders of the Afghan mujahidin on the most important aspect of his mission, that is, to bring about a compromise between the rival factions to form an interim government after the Soviet withdrawal.

Under the circumstances, the intensification of the liberation struggle by the Muslim Afghan mujahidin against the hegemony of a foreign power and the Kabul regime, which is an ideological battle at this point, is important. It is significant when one recalls that the Muslims of this brave land are determined to neutralize the superpower conspiracy that would make them a bargaining chip. Their stepped-up fight is important from another angle, for it is a reminder to everyone that they will continue their struggle to achieve their aims, which lie in the unconditional expulsion of the aggressors and the full recovery of their right to decide their fate on the basis of recognized international agreements.

Afghanistan's revolutionary Muslims have consistently rejected the Geneva talks, and have made statements stressing that they will continue their destiny-making war until the occupation forces withdraw. They are also demanding the full recovery of Afghanistan's national sovereignty and territorial integrity, and the reestablishment of its Islamic character without interference from the superpowers.

UK Reportedly Discussing Persian Gulf Cutback

LD220916 Tehran IRNA in English 0830 GMT 22 Jan 88

[Text] London, Jan. 22, IRNA—Britain's Defence Secretary George Younger held talks Thursday with his Belgian and Dutch counterparts amid reports of an imminent 50 per cent withdrawal of their minesweeping forces from the Persian Gulf.

The Defence Ministry was tight-lipped about the discussions held in London and was only willing to say that the ministers spoke on matters of mutual interest, which included their fleets in the Persian Gulf.

"Naturally they would have discussed the situation in the (Persian) Gulf," the spokesman told IRNA, but added that "no announcement" would be made.

Two separate reports from Dubayy Thursday said that the three countries are to half their total of eight minesweepers operating in the region to four and were waiting for ministerial approval.

The London GUARDIAN said that the plan was for Britain to cut its flotilla of minehunters from four to two and the Dutch and the Belgians each to reduce their squadrons from two to one but it was considered "politically too sensitive for any formal announcement."

The Western build-up in the Persian Gulf had been met with a blaze of publicity but the recognition of its failure is seen as causing government's acute embarrassment.

"For some weeks the pressure has been on to devise a discreet way of reducing the force," the paper said in a reference to the widely held view that the Europeans would follow the U.S. example of a partial withdrawal.

According to THE TIMES newspaper, the plans drawn up are for the three countries to form a "single integrated unit under one command" but believed that the British Government was worried that such formal co-ordination might be seen as "provocative."

Indications for the past three months have suggested that the Western armada in the Persian Gulf was not having its desired effect of alarming Iran but was being counter-productive and seen as only exacerbating the situation.

European concern has also come from France and Italy, who are likewise expected to reduce their forces. Opposition to the presence of the Italian fleet grew further Wednesday when politicians in Rome walked out to block approval for re-financing the force.

Norwegian, Panamanian Tankers Attacked in Gulf

LD221116 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 22 Jan 88

[Text] AP cites shipping sources in the region as reporting: A Norwegian tanker flying the Singapore flag came under gunboat attack in the Strait of Hormuz early this morning. No details have yet been received about the damage sustained by the 11,470-ton tanker, "Havpil," which was transporting liquid gas.

At the same time, REUTER has cited regional sources as saying: The 157,849-ton Panamanian tanker "Topaz" also came under gunboat attack this morning in the southern Persian Gulf. It was set on fire. A report on the extent of damage sustained by this tanker has not been received.

Besharati Urges End to Foreign Support for Iraq

LD201122 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0745 GMT 20 Jan 88

[Interview with Deputy Foreign Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati by unidentified correspondent; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] Dear listeners, we are here with Brother Besharati, deputy minister of foreign affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran. We would like to thank him for taking part in this interview. At the same time, I would like to ask: What effect will the start of the recent offensives by the fighters of Islam have on diplomatic efforts by international organizations, especially the United Nations, regarding the war? Could you also give us your views about the repercussions of those two operations?

[Besharati] In the name of God the compassionate, the merciful. God loves those who fight in His way as though they were a mighty rock. [Koranic verse] Greetings to all our beloved fighters who in the bloodstained trenches of our Islamic homeland are busy defending the honor, dignity, principles, and values of the holy order of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

These great operations conveyed four different messages: The first was a declaration of our support for those Muslims kept in bondage in occupied Palestine. This is how we announced our support for them. The second message was to Jordan and the Amman summit. We wanted to tell them that the backing of reactionaries will not change Saddam's fate. Our fighters, politicians, officials, and people are determined to continue the war until the aggressor is punished. The third message was to the countries of the region. They must stop their support for Saddam and avoid linking their fate with his, for we will continue our war until he falls. The most important message was to the United States, to Saddam's Western allies, and to the Security Council. We were telling them that they should not try to frighten us by passing a resolution. They should not threaten us, as that type of thing will not affect us in the least. As we have said repeatedly, if we are to end tension and solve the region's problems, we must rip out the root of the aggression.

You said that Saddam started the war. You admitted that he attacked cities and residential areas, struck civilian aircraft, and used chemical weapons. You admitted that he attacked tankers, supertankers, and merchant vessels. What should one do with a criminal, bloodthirsty murderer like Saddam? If you think that by creating some artificial climate you can prevent our people from achieving their rights, you are wrong. You would be better off to stop supporting Saddam, and to leave Saddam and his fate to us. Then you would see how quickly we end the war. You would see that there is no need for resolutions, declarations, an international conspiracy, coordination, or a military presence to end the conflict. The military presence of America and its allies was 100% opposed to U.S. interests.

I remember that when the shah wanted to frighten our people, he would threaten them. He used to say that the Armed Forces had not yet intervened, and that if they did, this or that would happen. However, as we saw, when the Armed Forces actually did intervene, Azhari, who became prime minister, spent 2 weeks out of his 40 days as prime minister in the hospital. His behavior was even worse than that of previous governments, and through his weakness and desperation he even lost the respect of the Armed Forces.

The United States was a power that threatened us from afar. The United States might have been a source of consolation for the people of the region. However, when that country actually came here, it realized that it could do nothing against the Islamic Republic.

At this point, I must say to our people, our proud and martyr-nurturing people, and to our fighters: To reach the present stage, in other words, the stage when the United States came up against the extraordinary power and unique aura [sowlat] of the Islamic Republic and had such a feeling of fear, trepidation, and terror, if we had to offer as many martyrs as we have in the last 7 years and 4 months, that would not be too much. Had we spent billions of dollars to achieve such a mighty feat, that would not be too much. If the list of our martyrs were to get longer, even that would be worth it.

Following the frightful defeat inflicted on U.S. prestige and military prowess in the region, it would be appropriate for us to celebrate from now until the 10 Days of Dawn [from 1 February when Khomeyni returned to Iran to 11 February when the revolution succeeded], as the United States felt it could not use military force against the Islamic Republic. We disgraced that country. We rendered the United States and its military machine ineffective; we made them worthless. That is of great significance, and the United States knows it. Therefore, they should not threaten us. The United States knows that; as such, it should not intimidate the people of the region. It should not give false hope to its allies and to reactionaries, for we shattered America's prestige.

The "Zafar-5" and "Bayt ol-Moqaddas-2" operations were launched with 3 meters, 2 meters, or 1 meter, more or less, of snow in the region. Those were the conditions, situation, and climatic conditions. There were natural obstacles such as mountains, passes, valleys, and snow, which all had their impact when our fighters wanted to advance with their light and medium weapons or engage the enemy, who had deployed there, and had built positions, erected fortifications, or put up earthworks. When they can fight the enemy and overrun his positions under those conditions, when they can force him to withdraw, and can kill many mercenaries and capture many others, the very fact that they can launch an operation is a victory. If they also manage to fight and destroy the enemy, that is truly something extremely significant.

The West and the other allies of Saddam are still in a daze as a result of the "Karbala'-5" operations. Clearly, those actions will continue until the fighters of Islam achieve the wishes of the great leader of the revolution, the commander in chief of the Armed Forces, the great master, his holiness the Grand Ayatollah Imam Khomeyni, may his shadow long continue. He hopes for a complete victory, punishment for Saddam, and the severing of the hands of the Ba'th Party from the fate of the people of Iraq. That day is not far off.

They regard it as quite remote, but we see it to be nigh. [Koranic verse] The Holy Koran says that although people may think there is long way to go before we reach that day, for us victory is near, very near. We are about to reach the crest of victory, and our future appears far brighter than last year.

Now as never before we realize that international forums, the Security Council and the United Nations, will do nothing to identify or punish the aggressor. However, due to the persistence of some of our friends, we agreed to cooperate with the Security Council. This cooperation with the Security Council does not mean that we intend to solve the problem of the war through diplomatic means, or that we are ready to accept a cease-fire. No, our political and diplomatic efforts parallel our military operations. You know that our fighters continue to chant the slogan "war, war until victory." We should say the same thing on the political front with other words. We take our turn, go to international forums and to the various countries, and speak with their prominent personalities and responsible officials. We prove that Saddam is the aggressor on the basis of such evidence as global conventions, international law, and some irrefutable documents. They, too, accept and admit this. We say: Tell us what to do with the aggressor. On the basis of our evidence, we have proven that Saddam is the aggressor, and that the aggressor should be exposed and punished. Thus, political and military efforts have a single meaning today, and these two lines of action resemble the rails that carry a locomotive.

We know that the Security Council will not do anything, either. There is a proverb, which says: In times of tyranny, when tyrants rule, the judicial system will do nothing but support the tyrant. One should not seek their help, for, in times of tyranny, the Security Council will help only the unjust.

At this point I must say that despite the poisonous global climate created against us by the United States, we eventually managed to make Resolution 598 past history. Resolution 598 eventually became last year's resolution and is now out of date. They were in such a hurry to implement Resolution 598, and we eventually made it an old resolution. No matter what resolution they may pass, its fate will be the same unless the Security Council takes account of who actually started the war—that is, Saddam—and a court is established through diplomatic means to investigate his countless crimes. Otherwise, our fighters will continue to do their duty; they will continue the sacred defense.

Those who consider the news have a good understanding of things. Their satellites are active and have taken accurate pictures of our positions. On the basis of the intelligence at our disposal, this issue has created several factions among the statesmen in the White House. One is the Weinberger faction. He was the standard-bearer of those who suggested the continuation of unconditional support for Saddam. Another group said: That cannot be done, for everything Iran predicted has come true. The more we continue our policy, the more determined Iran becomes. Its terms have become stiffer, as well. We should remove Saddam so that Iran does not increase its demands.

It was not only the United States that found itself in this situation; even its European allies were in the same boat. We see this when we go abroad. I cannot give any names for security reasons, but they have told us how things are in the West. They say: Everyone realizes that you are not intimidated by military threats. Thus, they have resorted to diplomatic means. In this case, that expression meant the removal of Weinberger and his faction. In other words, we have finally seen the appointment of a faction that does not believe in harsh measures. The United States will leave the region, despite denials from Reagan and Carlucci. They have gained nothing by staying in the region, and, as such, they will achieve nothing through political means.

Combat Operations Against Iraq Continue

Communique No 3,087

LD201719 Tehran IRNA in English 1626 GMT 20 Jan 88

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 20, IRNA—Iran's naval gunboats intercepted and searched 12 cargo ships and oil and gas tankers in the Strait of Hormuz Tuesday but allowed them to continue voyage after making certain they were not carrying cargo for Iraq.

The 3087th Joint Staff Communique, announcing the above, said here today that the Islamic Republic Air Force effectively carried out reconnaissance flights over the Persian Gulf and the Sea of Oman in support of the Navy, to reconnoiter foreign vessels.

Exchange of artillery, mortar and tank fire continued throughout the fronts Tuesday, raging somewhat more heavily in Shalamcheh, southern sector, where a number of Iraqi soldiers were killed and parts of their positions set ablaze.

Iraqi forces sustained several casualties and at least five enemy gun emplacements and a munitions dump were destroyed in parts of the southern and western fronts in artillery duels with Iranian Gendarmerie forces yesterday.

In Kanishaykh, western sector, Iranian artillery fire checked movement of an Iraqi artillery unit yesterday, inflicting heavy losses on it.

Movement of several Iraqi supply columns in Helaleh, Zobeydeh and Sharani, western and southern fronts, were checked by the artillery fire of the Muslim combatants Tuesday.

Iraqi forces sustained heavy casualties and losses and enemy engineering operations were checked in Mehran, western fronts, by Iranian artillery fire yesterday, concluded the communique.

Communique No 3,088

LD211628 Tehran IRNA in English 1618 GMT 21 Jan 88

[Text] Tehran, Jan 21, IRNA—The Islamic Republic Air Force effectively carried out reconnaissance flights over the Persian Gulf and the Sea of Oman Wednesday in support for the Navy despite receiving warnings from foreign warships, said a military communique here Thursday.

The 3088th communique released by the Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces added that Iran's Muslim combatants, fortifying their positions, reconnoitered and shelled Iraqi fortifications throughout the battlefields yesterday, inflicting heavy casualties and losses on enemy troops.

Iranian gendarmerie forces in continuation of their battle with Iraqi troops Wednesday inflicted heavy losses in men and equipment on Ba'thist forces in parts of the southern and western sectors Wednesday.

Heavy artillery fire of the Muslim combatants suppressed Iraqi military operations and logistical activities throughout the northwestern fronts and in Yabis and Nahr 'Anbar, southern sector, yesterday, killing or wounding a number of enemy soldiers.

In Panjwin, Mehran and 'Eynkhosh, Iraqi forces suffered several casualties and losses when their tank squadrons were shelled by Iranian artillery fire Wednesday, concluded the communique.

3 Counterattacks Repulsed

LD211058 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 21 Jan 88

[Text] The General Staff of the three branches of the IRGC has issued a communique announcing: The blasphemy-crushing personnel of the army of Islam, composed of fighters from the IRGC ground forces and Army pilots from the Islamic Republic's Armed Forces, succeeded in foiling and smashing another three enemy counterattacks this morning in the "Bayt ol-Moqaddas-2" operational sector.

The Iraqi Army assembled its remaining forces during these operations, deployed its replacement units and special forces, and, using its aircraft and helicopters, launched its counterattacks. The enemy suffered more than 800 dead or wounded, lost dozens of men taken prisoner, and was forced to withdraw. In the course of the action, the artillery fire of the IRGC ground forces was both heavy and at full volume. The artillery and antitank units of the IRGC completely destroyed and set ablaze a large amount of enemy equipment, armor, and engineering facilities.

800 Iraqi POW's Paraded in Baneh, Saqqez

LD201206 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 20 Jan 88

[Report by unidentified Central News Unit correspondent in Sanandaj]

[Text] Some 800 POW's captured in the victorious "Bayt ol-Moqaddas-2" operations were paraded in the streets of the border cities of Baneh and Saqqez today. During the parade in Baneh and Saqqez, which have been the targets of air raids by the Iraqi Zionist regime on many occasions, the POW's, who were carrying posters of the imam of the ummah and Grand Ayatollah Montazeri, chanted such slogans as "Death to Saddam" and "Death to America." They thus demonstrated their hatred of the regime ruling Iraq and their regret for their own past deeds. The steadfast residents of these cities also chanted revolutionary slogans along the parade route, paid tribute to the warriors of Islam, and welcomed the Iraqi POW's.

Iraqi Major Notes 'Deteriorating' Morale

LD210631 Tehran IRNA in English 0628 GMT 21 Jan 88

[Text] Operational Region, Jan. 21, IRNA—Morale of the Iraqi military personnel is steadily deteriorating and the Baghdad regime is in a shaky position, said here Wednesday an Iraqi commander captured in ongoing victorious Bayt ol-Moqaddas-2 operations, launched in northern Iraq last Friday.

Major Tahir Zakhir al-Khaza'i commander of the Third Battalion of Brigade Three of Division 44 of the First Corps speaking to IRNA said that the Iraqi soldiers have no motive to fight the Iranian forces. This, he added, is one of the main reasons for repeated defeats suffered by Iraq's army.

The commander further told IRNA that the Iraqis are fed up with Saddam. However, due to absence of a unified leadership they have so far been unable to launch a popular uprising.

Pakistan

UN Envoy on Afghanistan Arrives for Talks

BK210403 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 21 Jan 88

[Text] The UN secretary general's personal representative on Afghanistan, Diego Cordovez, has spoken about the very good and sincere intentions on both sides to reach a solution to the Afghanistan problem. He made this comment to newsmen at Islamabad Airport last night on his arrival to prepare for the next round of Geneva talks on Afghanistan.

He said his visit is in connection with the proposal he had presented to the Pakistani Government to ensure that full preparations can be made for the next round of negotiations. Both sides, he added, have described the next round of talks as the concluding one, thereby putting a heavy responsibility on his shoulders for making better preparations and for conducting this round of talks in a way that can ensure a very positive and good outcome for the next Geneva round.

Responding to a question about his recent talks with Soviet leaders in Moscow, Cordovez said what he got in Moscow was a very categorical expression of good intentions for concluding a settlement of the problem. He pointed out that these expressions were later publicly confirmed by very senior officials. He declined to comment on reports he has forwarded new proposals for the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan.

Cordovez thanked the Pakistani Government for its consistent cooperation over the years during which they have been striving to carry forward the process for a settlement of the Afghanistan problem. He praised the way in which the Pakistani Government has participated in negotiations.

In reply to another question, Cordovez asserted he will not go to Tehran during his current visit due to technical reasons. However, he noted that he has been maintaining close contact with the Iranian Government during the entire process of the Geneva negotiations and that this contact will continue in the future as well.

Cordovez is expected to meet with President Mohammad Ziaul Haq and Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo. He will also hold discussions with Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Zain Noorani and senior officials at the Foreign Office. He will later go to Kabul on a similar mission.

Meanwhile, in an interview in New York, UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar has expressed hope Soviet troops will be withdrawn from Afghanistan following a peace settlement there.

Holds Talks With Junejo

BK211615 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 21 Jan 88

[Text] Diego Cordovez, the UN secretary general's personal representative on Afghanistan, called on Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo in Islamabad today. This important meeting lasted more than an hour and all aspects of the Afghan question were discussed. They held talks on issues to be settled in the draft of the proposed Geneva accord, including a timetable for the withdrawal of Soviet forces, steps to end the fighting, and supervision of the implementation of the Geneva agreement.

Earlier, Cordovez held some initial talks on the Geneva documents with Zain Noorani, minister of state for foreign affairs, and exchanged views concerning the timeframe and an end to the war.

Cordovez arrived in Islamabad last night as part of a regional tour. He will continue his talks tomorrow, which will also deal with preparations for the next round of Geneva talks.

Noorani Views Soviet Proposals on Afghanistan

PM181100 Paris LE FIGARO in French 9-10 Jan 88 p 3

[Report on interview with Foreign Minister Zain Noorani by Claude Lorieux on 8 January; place not given]

[Text] "If the Soviets are sincere, then we will meet them halfway," Zain Noorani, the new Pakistani foreign minister, affirmed in an interview with LE FIGARO yesterday.

The minister of state for foreign affairs [title as published] did not conceal his reservations about the latest Soviet statements on the possibility of a rapid withdrawal from Afghanistan. "We must be cautious. This is a problem which we have been following for 8 and 1/2 years. We have already witnessed similar public relations operations. We will see what happens in February."

Mr Noorani, who succeeded Yaqub Khan following his resignation after he had failed to be elected UNESCO director general, stated categorically: "We are prepared to cooperate to achieve a rapid solution, but we will not accept a solution to the crisis based on principles contrary to the Afghan people's interests."

Mr Noorani, who held talks yesterday with [French Foreign Minister] Jean-Bernard Raimond, listed those principles: Soviet troops should be withdrawn as quickly as possible and the Afghan people, the refugees (there are at least 3 million of them in Pakistan), and those who have remained in the country must decide what type of government they want.

The Islamabad Government has still not received official confirmation of the Soviet statements on the possibility of troops being withdrawn in the 12 months following the signing of an agreement.

"We would be prepared to consider such a proposal (for withdrawal)," the Pakistani foreign minister admitted, "provided it is accompanied by safeguards." Pakistan will not be satisfied with a general timetable for withdrawing the 120,000 Soviet soldiers. It wants to know how many of them will be withdrawn in the 3 months which follow the signing of the agreement (possibly 15 of the total number). How many would be withdrawn in a second 3-month phase? It will be necessary to start with the forces deployed in the regions close to the Pakistani border.

The Islamabad foreign minister is particularly anxious for the establishment of an "effective method of monitoring" the pledges made by the warring sides.

Like Sitting Ducks [subhead]

The Pakistani foreign minister's main concern is to guarantee the safety of the refugees who return to Afghanistan until the Soviet withdrawal is completed. They would return "virtually unarmed," whereas the Soviet-Afghan troops would have all their weapons.

"The refugees," Mr Noorani stressed, "would be at their mercy...like sitting ducks." Hence the need to deploy "a UN peacekeeping force" in the Afghan regions bordering on Pakistan. Prime Minister Junejo has discussed this possibility. But his foreign minister is not very optimistic about what reaction can be expected from the Kremlin.

According to Mr Noorani, the activity of the Soviet forces throughout the withdrawal period should be monitored by international observers. That ought not to be "too difficult" because they are all deployed in military camps. The minister does not want a situation in which the "resistance would be crippled" by the end of foreign aid, while "the Soviets would still have their resources for almost 1 year."

In any event, the Islamabad foreign minister thinks that "when the Soviets have left, they will not want to return to Afghanistan. Independent Afghanistan has always had a friendly attitude toward the Soviet Union," he noted.

When one talks about the attacks on Pakistani villages by planes from Kabul and the attacks which are causing bloodshed in Pakistani cities, Zain Noorani says: "It is obvious that somebody is trying to exert pressure on us to accept an agreement which is not fair for the Afghan population."

With regard to rivalry between the resistance groups, he thinks it is exaggerated by the foreign press. "If the foreigners leave, and if the Afghans are left alone, they will not fight each other. They are accustomed to overcoming their differences."

Paper Analyzes Outlook for Afghan Talks

BK210712 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 9 Jan 88 p 4

[Editorial: "A Spanner in the Works?"]

[Text] The recently concluded visit to Pakistan by Mr. Michael Armacost, the U.S. under-secretary of state for political affairs, seems to have done little to allay the widespread suspicion here that the United States is not quite ready to see the Afghanistan issue resolved in the near future.

While Mr. Armacost's scepticism and penchant for detail can be viewed as reasonable, even admirable attributes, the manner in which he has brought these to bear upon the prospects of a settlement over Afghanistan, during the course of his visit, cannot be described as entirely constructive. "We have heard this before", he is reported to have remarked when asked to comment on the expression of hope by Soviet sources that the next round of talks on Afghanistan in Geneva will end in a settlement and will, therefore, be the last.

Again, he struck an unenthusiastic note with regard to the possibility of the Soviet Union agreeing to the withdrawal of its forces within a short time frame—"one needs to know other aspects of the withdrawal such as the phasing and when the withdrawal was going to commence."

The question is whether all this is just a matter of checking the loopholes or is it more than that? Significantly the United Nations mediator Mr. Diego Cordovez has said that Soviet officials expressed the fear that the U.S. and Pakistan, sensing the time table concession in the offing, may now up the ante before agreeing to their half of the bargain—a cut off of the flow of arms to Afghan Mujahidin. He has also cited with some apparent concern a Dec. 21 press conference at which Armacost said that the U.S. "couldn't stand by and simply observe a withdrawal during which the Soviets attempted to use their residual power to go after the resistance."

Certainly Mr. Cordovez could not have any reservations about ensuring the legitimate requirements of safety of those active in the Afghan resistance. But it is the timing and the thrust of the observations being made by the U.S. spokesman that have prompted Mr. Cordovez to sit up and take notice. He has warned against the perils of frittering away the opportunity of securing peace in Afghanistan now.

An aspect of Mr. Armacost's visit to Pakistan that needs to be taken up is his meeting with the Peshawar-based Mujahidin leaders. He met, in Islamabad, not just with Mr. Yunis Khalis, chief of the Seven Party Alliance, but with all the individual party leaders, except one. While this is indicative of the inability of the Mujahidin groups even at this late stage to have one person negotiate on their behalf, it is also a violation of the norms established by Pakistan and the U.S. regarding the latter's interaction with the Mujahidin leaders.

Previously, there has been direct contact between the two sides in Geneva, U.S. and elsewhere but not in Pakistan. The unprecedented meeting on our soil, at this delicate juncture, smacks of a "going over our heads" approach, which we should not be complacent about.

The U.S. as one of the guarantors has a legitimate concern, as Mr. Armacost was at pains to point out, with the details and fine print of the final agreement on Afghanistan. That having been said, however, it is important for the United States not to lose sight of the forest for the trees. It is Pakistan that has borne the real and long term costs of U.S. involvement in Afghanistan, willingly, one may add, in support of its own principled stand on the issue.

The purpose has been clear: to persuade and pressure the Soviets to leave Afghanistan as rapidly as possible. Now that there are clear indications that they do indeed want to do so, Pakistan has the right to hope that no one, not least its supposed allies, will throw a spanner in the works to keep an agreement from being reached. Apart from everything else, a continuing state of war in Afghanistan poses real and immediate dangers to its own security and national interests.

Karachi Curfew Relaxed for Food Merchants

BK201555 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 20 Jan 88

[Text] The Karachi East District administration has announced that meat, vegetable, and milk merchants have been exempted from curfew restrictions in the curfew-bound areas of Shah Faysal Colony to provide basic needs to the people and maintain other facilities.

Essential services personnel have already been exempted from curfew restrictions. They have, however, been advised to keep their office and national identity cards with them during their duty hours and to show them when asked to do so by law enforcement officials.

UAE President Arrives on Private Visit 21 Jan

BK211140 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 21 Jan 88

[Text] The president of the United Arab Emirates, Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan, arrived in Karachi this afternoon on a week-long private visit to Pakistan. At the airport he was received by the Sind governor, Mr Ashraf Tabani, chief minister, Syed Ghaus Ali Shah, and some provincial ministers.

Japanese Note 'Improved' Investment Climate

OW210331 Tokyo KYODO in English 0039 GMT 21 Jan 88

[Text] Islamabad, Jan. 21 KYODO—Kenichi Suematsu, leader of a 35-member Japanese investment mission, said here Wednesday that the investment climate in Pakistan has greatly improved since 1983 when a similar Japanese mission last visited Pakistan.

Pakistan has more political stability and is economically sounder than in 1983, Suematsu, vice president of Japan's Mitsui Bank, Ltd., said at a press conference here. He said he believes Pakistan can expect an inflow of Japanese investment.

During a six-day visit to Pakistan which ends Thursday, the Japanese mission members called on President Ziaul Haq and Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo and met all ministers in charge of economics.

In a prepared statement, Suematsu said that during the meeting with Pakistani Government officials, his mission raised some problems concerning investment in Pakistan and that the Pakistani side promised to look into the problems mentioned by the mission.

During the press conference, Suematsu listed inadequate infrastructure including power, water and road as obstacles to Japanese investment in Pakistan.

He said his mission will submit a report to the Japanese Ministry of International Trade and Industry about its findings during the Pakistan visit and he hoped the report would help produce sizable investment in Pakistan.

PRC To Supply 200 MIG-21's, Pilot Training

BK220708 Karachi NAWA-I-WAQT in Urdu 12 Jan 88 pp 1, 8

[Saleh Zafar report]

[Text] Islamabad, 11 January—It has been learned from reliable sources that the People's Republic of China will begin delivery to Pakistan of their latest indigenously built MIG-21 aircraft within 10 weeks. The inclusion of these 200 aircraft in the Pakistan Air Force [PAF] will reduce the tilt in the balance of power which, to a great extent, is currently in India's favor, as a result of Soviet-supplied MIG-29's.

NAWA-I-WAQT has learned that these Chinese-built MIG fighters greatly resemble the Soviet MIG-29's in their structure. They [the MIG-29's] are fitted with relatively bigger engines, but Pakistan is acquiring from the United States the highly sophisticated GE 404 type engines, which will be fitted to the Chinese-supplied aircraft. The engine fitting work will be done in Pakistan itself. The installation of this small-sized engine in the MIG-21 aircraft will double the fuel storage capacity of the plane, thus extending the range of its operation.

The first batch of efficient PAF pilots will leave for China on 24 January for training. These pilots will fly the aircraft themselves from China to Pakistan. It is understood that in view of its exemplary friendship with Pakistan, China has provided these planes to Islamabad at very low prices with concessions for payment.

After their induction into the PAF, these planes will be designated as F-7's and will be fitted with sophisticated computers. Sensitive equipment bought from France and Sweden will also be installed on them. The F-7 aircraft will be suitable for day and night, all-weather operations, and their fighting capability will be almost equal to any other aircraft of the subcontinent.

Their speed and strike capability will be very close to those of the MIG-29's. Two squadrons of the F-7 planes are expected to reach Pakistan in the next 10 weeks, but the full delivery of the 200 planes will be completed in 1 to 1 and 1/2 years.

It has also been learned that the Chinese-built MIG-19's, which are known as F-6's in the PAF and which have been fitted with certain foreign components by Pakistani experts, and made suitable for all-weather operations, will remain in use, as usual, for a few more years. These planes are being efficiently used for surveillance and interception purposes.

Senate Briefed on Indian Arms Build-Up

BK211650 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 21 Jan 88

[Text] The Senate today decided to discuss the defense policy of the country, for which a date will be fixed soon. The minister of state for defense, Rana Naim Mahmud, told the house that the government was ready to allow a discussion on the defense policy. He was speaking on four identical adjournment motions tabled by Maulana Kausar Niazi, Prof Khurshid Ahmed, Mr Tariq Chowdhury, and Mr Javed Iqbal.

Tabling the adjournment motions, they wanted discussion regarding recent acquisition of nuclear submarine by India from the Soviet Union, as well as other armaments which have disturbed the balance of power in the region.

The minister of state for defense said the acquiring of nuclear submarines and other weapons by India was a cause of great concern to Pakistan, as it will have serious effect on the balance of power in this area. The government, he said, is fully seized of the matter and assured the members that all necessary measures will be taken within the available resources to meet the threat.

The house was discussing a bill to further amend the Pakistan penal code and the criminal law amendment bill when it adjourned to meet again on Sunday morning.

Commentary Criticizes India's Nuclear Stand

BK200614 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 19 Jan 88

[Ghani Erabi commentary]

[Text] Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo has reaffirmed Pakistan's renunciation of nuclear weapons and expressed the hope India would respond positively to Islamabad's proposals for declaring and making South Asia effectively a nuclear-free zone. He spelled out the proposals at a meeting in Islamabad yesterday with the delegation of International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear Weapons [as heard].

Islamabad's proposals for joint or simultaneous action in curbing nuclear proliferation in the subcontinent presented through the United Nations are so clear and credible that both the U.S. Administration and Congress have urged India at least to consider them dispassionately or offer counterproposals of her own. But India has done neither, contending she cannot be equated with Pakistan. However, she has never explained why not.

The modern world cannot operate except on the basis of sovereign equality of nations and whatever religious commitment India may have to a caste system at home, it cannot operate abroad. It is not acceptable to the world at large. The U.S. Senate Appropriations Committee recently made that abundantly clear and both the Senate and the House, in the act of resuming aid to Pakistan, have prescribed the principle that the prohibitions of the nonproliferation law apply either to both India and Pakistan or to none. The principle has just been endorsed by an 18-member task force of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

As reported by the Indian radio itself this week, the task force experts have brought India and Pakistan at par on the question of regional test ban and nuclear site inspection and has urged the aid-to-India consortium to exercise equal influence on India by linking it to nuclear nonproliferation. Another part of the Carnegie study says while Pakistan may barely manage to produce 15 to 30 bombs by 1991, India has the capacity to manufacture at least 115 and she possesses far more numerous deep penetration aircraft capable of delivering the bomb.

In an early study of the smaller nuclear forces, Carnegie scholar Dr (Spicter) recalled the Indian prime minister's LE MONDE interview that India could put together a nuclear bomb within months if not weeks of Pakistan producing one. From this, the U.S. specialists concluded that India must have all the components of a bomb already lined up and said all this fueled the suspicion that India already was stockpiling nuclear bombs.

India's latest action in acquiring nuclear submarines from the Soviet Union with their nuclear reactors uncovered by any international inspection has caused a further setback to the dream of making the region a nuclear-free zone.

Sri Lanka

Motion Passed To Extend State of Emergency

BK211259 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 1250 GMT 21 Jan 88

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Jan 21 (LANKA PUWATH)—The motion to extend the state of emergency was passed in Sri Lanka Parliament today by a majority of 118 votes, the Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation announced in its evening news bulletin today.

124 voted for the motion while six voted against.

Members of the Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP), Communist Party (CP) and the Mahajana Eksath Peramuna (MEP) voted against.

'Foreign Army Should Depart'

BK220640 Hong Kong AFP in English 0615 GMT 22 Jan 88

[Text] Colombo, Jan 22 (AFP)—Sri Lankans are of "one mind" in wanting Indian Peace-Keeping Forces (IPKF) deployed on the island to withdraw, the national security minister has told Parliament.

Speaking during a debate Thursday to extend emergency legislation, National Security Minister Lalith Athulathmudali said "the people of all communities are of one mind that the foreign army should depart.

"Even the Indians are asking why their Army is in Sri Lanka. But how are we going to send them away? We must discuss this," he said.

Mr. Athulathmudali said the progress of the Indian offensive against Tamil rebels in the island's Northern and Eastern Provinces would figure at talks next week between the two governments in New Delhi.

More than 30,000 Indian troops are in Sri Lanka to enforce a July 29 Indo-Sri Lanka peace accord aimed at ending nearly five years of Tamil separatist violence in the island nation.

The peace accord has been stalled since the dominant Tamil militant group, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), refused to surrender its arms, prompting an Indian military offensive October 10 to disarm the rebels.

Mr. Athulathmudali said "the LTTE is in trouble now. I heard the Tigers want to talk (peace). We should not discourage any such approach...."

President Junius Jayewardene said in a statement Thursday that functions of the IPKF and the need to restore peace quickly in troubled provinces would be discussed during his six-day visit to India beginning Monday.

"What needs to be done now is to restore peace in the Northern and Eastern Provinces after which the Indian troops could withdraw," he said.

Parliament voted 124 to 6 Friday to extend emergency laws for a month.

10 LTTE 'Terrorists' Captured, 2 Surrender

BK210955 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 0917 GMT 21 Jan 88

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Jan 21 (LANKA PUWATH)—Ten LTTE terrorists were captured and two surrendered to the Indian peace keeping force (IPKF) yesterday, official sources told LANKA PUWATH.

They said that during search operations Indian troops seized 40 kilograms of explosives at Vadamarachchi and two jerry cans also of explosives at Alaveddi, in the Jaffna Peninsula.

Four youths who claimed they were members of the EROS [Eelam Revolutionary Organization of Students] were arrested by the Kehelwatte police, Colombo, for allegedly extorting Rs.35,000 cash and five bags of rice from Traherb.

Police Repulse LTTE Attack

BK211119 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 21 Jan 88

[Text] An LTTE terrorist attack on the police station in Pottuvil in the Eastern Province was repulsed in the early hours of yesterday. Official sources told LANKA PUWATH that the attack, which began at 0200, ended 3 hours later when the terrorists were forced to withdraw in the wake of a fierce counterattack by police. The terrorists had fired with AK-47 and T-56 rifles, heavy machineguns, and hand bombs. There was damage to the police station building and two security flood lamps, but no casualties.

Indian High Commissioner Meets With Jayewardene

BK220911 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 0858 GMT 22 Jan 88

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Jan 22 (LANKA PUWATH)—The Indian High Commission in Colombo issued the following press release today:

High Commissioner Mr J.N. Dixit called on Sri Lankan President J.R. Jayewardene on the evening of the 21st January and again on the morning of the 22nd January for discussions on President Jayewardene's forthcoming visit to India.

High commissioner informed the president of the details of the programme of his visit to India. High commissioner also exchanged views on the agenda for discussions between the president and Sri Rajiv Gandhi.

In the course of these discussions, the president informed Mr Dixit that with the enactment of the Provincial Councils Election Law by the Parliament of Sri Lanka, Sri Lanka would have completed the legislative processes aimed at devolution of power and would have met the obligations in this regard envisaged in the Indo-Sri Lanka Agreement.

The president formally informed the high commissioner of the contents of his address to the United National Party (UNP) parliamentary group and conveyed to the high commissioner that with the planned elections to the provincial councils and the consequtnt establishment of the provincial councils, the Northern and Eastern Provinces of Sri Lanka as now constituted will be merged as one administrative unit when the provincial council elections are held.

This merged unit will have one elected provincial council with one governor, one chief minister and one board of ministers in pursuance of the provisions of the Article 2.2 of the Indo-Sri Lanka agreement of the 29th of July 1987.

The merger as stipulated in the agreement will be subject to a referendum in the Eastern Province.

High commissioner told the president that this information is being immediately conveyed to the Government of India. The Government of India considers this a further step towards restoring peace and normalcy in Sri Lanka responsive to the aspirations of the people of Sri Lanka.

Indian Defense Minister on Situation in North

BK201155 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 20 Jan 88

[Text] The Indian defense minister has said the situation in Sri Lanka's north was near normal and it was time to begin political processes. Minister Krishna Chandra Pant appealed to the dominant rebel group, the LTTE, to shun violence and follow the democratic path of the ballot. PTI reported that earlier, at a function after formally inaugurating the first Indian built main battle tank for the Army, Mr Pant said that the restoration of normalcy in Sri Lanka's Northern Province was steadily progressing. Mr Pant said northern shops and schools are now functioning normally. Food and other consumer goods were available, and telephone and power supply systems were best in service. He said the Indian Peacekeeping Force [IPKF] was sent to Sri Lanka to help implement the July accord with the best guarantee for the Tamils there. One of the main purposes of the pact was to meet the aspirations of all Tamils and their interests could not be served by the IPKF's withdrawal.

25,000 Displaced Persons Return to Homes

BK181321 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 1110 GMT 18 Jan 88

["OANA/pool" item]

[Excerpt] Colombo, Jan 18 (LANKA PUWATH)—Twenty-five thousand persons who were displaced in Kantale due to terrorist attacks have now returned to their homes.

A Rehabilitation Ministry spokesman told LANKA PUWATH today the Rehabilitation Minister Lionel Jayatilleke visited Kantale this morning to meet the people who have returned.

The minister met farmers and heard their grievances. [passage omitted]

Aid Agreement Signed With Japan 18 Jan

OW181251 Tokyo KYODO in English 1153 GMT 18 Jan 88

[Text] Colombo, Jan. 17 KYODO—Japan has agreed to provide Sri Lanka with 6,316 million yen worth of grant assistance, Sri Lankan Government officials said Monday.

The two countries signed and exchanged diplomatic documents on the assistance here Monday.

Japanese Health and Welfare Minister Takao Fujimoto and his Sri Lankan counterpart Ranjit Attapattu were present at the signing ceremony.

The Japanese assistance includes 1,038 million yen to help improve a medical research institute and 1,358 million yen to build a training center for automobile engineering.

Japan will also give Sri Lanka 2,800 million yen to purchase fertilizers and farm machinery for increased food production.

Colombo will receive 120 buses worth 1,120 million yen to cover damages to Sri Lanka's transport system following an ethnic conflict in that country, the officials said.

Fujitomo, who left Japan Friday, arrived earlier Monday to attend the signing ceremony and is scheduled to return to Tokyo Wednesday.